



Discernimiento sobre. . .

## Diá Casual de los Trabajadores

por: Arthur B. Kalson  
traducción: Stella Loaisiga

**E**l 13 de Abril, 1989, el Supervisor Jim Gonzáles y el capitán Diarmuid Philpott de la Estación Ingleside, asistieron a una reunión del South of Army Merchants Association para discutir el problema de un considerable grupo de hombres que frecuentemente visitan los alrededores del Kelly-Moore Paint Store en la esquina de Valencia y Mission. Alrededore de 250 hombres en su mayoría Latinos considerados como ilegales, estaban alrededor de los vehículos y camionetas de los clientes de Kelly-Moore solicitando trabajo. Hubieron reportes con quejas de mujeres que pasaban por el lugar en su camino hacia La Clínica de Mujeres, quejas de alcoholismo, y abuso de drogas y violencia. Los contratistas agravaron la situación al venir regularmente al lugar en busca de mano de obra barata. Los hombres de negocio del vecindario agotaron su paciencia por el problema y demandaron una acción.

continúa página quince

spotlight on . . .

## Casual Day Laborers

by Arthur B. Kalson

**O**n April 13, 1989, Supervisor Jim Gonzales and Captain Diarmuid Philpott of Ingleside station attended a meeting of the South of Army Merchants Association to discuss the problem of a large group of men hanging out in the vicinity of the Kelly-Moore Paint Store at the corner of Valencia and Mission Streets. As many as 250 men, mostly Latino and allegedly illegal aliens, were surrounding the cars and trucks of Kelly-Moore customers, begging for work. There were reports of harrassment of women passing by on their way to the Women's Clinic, alcoholism and drug abuse, littering, and even violence. Contractors aggravated the situation by coming regularly to the site in search of cheap labor. The neighborhood businessmen were fed up with the problem, and demanded action.

Gonzales was annoyed. He felt that he was being pressured only because he had a Spanish surname, and that other city officials should also be called. The Police Department's position was that, since many of these people were refugees from wars their native countries, and San Francisco had declared itself to be a Sanctuary City, they would not interfere unless an actual crime was committed. Gonzales stated his belief that the problem was a direct result of our country's policies in South and

continued on page sixteen



The Day Laborers' Organizing Committee introduces itself to the community. Front row, l to r: Lucretia Bermudez of La Raza Centro Legal; Marina Reyes, an interested observer; Connie Guzman of La Raza. Second row: Mauricio Aviles of Mission Hiring Hall. Third row: Juan Reinos, Student Intern at SF State, Committee members José, José, David, and José; Marco Rodriguez, Student Intern at SF State. Fourth Row: Brian Schmaedick, Dolores Housing Program.

## Exciting 4th BHCF Congress and Election

by Helen Helfer  
Executive Director  
Bernal Heights  
Community Foundation

The Fourth Bernal Heights Community Foundation brought almost 100 neighbors together at the Center on a rainy Saturday morning in March. This year's election of seven new Board Members made the 16 member Board over 50% people of color, with all of Bernal's geographic areas represented.

The new members are:

1. Diane Alvarez, a Bernal Heights resident since 1958, who is self-employed and provides accounting and immigration services. She is currently a director of the St Kevin's SKY youth pro-

gram, and would like to see "the flourishing of programs that BHCF have ahead . . . and Cortland Avenue clean with nice shops."

2. Reverend Carolyn Dyson, a community resident for four years, and currently Executive Director of the Community Lifeline Ministries on Cortland Avenue. She was Vice-President of MUNI's Employees Federal Credit Union Board of Directors, and would like to "assist in guiding the vision of the Foundation for a better and healthier Bernal Heights".

3. Barbara Garcia, a resident for three years, currently author of "Alemany Notes" in the *New Bernal Journal*. One of her main concerns is youth, who are "hard-

serious problems, such as drugs, weak educational system, and unemployment."

4. Terrence Ireland, a resident for almost three years, and a member of the BHCF Youth Committee. He would like to see "a full calender of youth activities and an expansion of the after-school homework program" plus continuing to address the violence in our community, and a cleaner, safer Cortland Avenue.

5. Norma Jean Planiczka has owned property in Bernal since 1986, and is Chairperson of the Bernal Heights East and South Slope Committee working with the Redevelopment Agency. She want to "accomplish goals that will service those living here now and future residents."

continued on page fourteen



Some of the board members at the Bernal Heights Community Foundation: Ashley Hawley Rhodes, Terrence Ireland, Georgia Willette, Rev. Carolyn Dyson, Barbara Garcia, and Marci Dy Wilson.

# new Bernal Journal

515 Cortland Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
(415) 648-0330

The *New Bernal Journal* is an open forum of the community sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. It is dedicated to providing the people of Bernal Heights with neighborhood news, ideas, issues, and events. Articles express the views of contributors and not necessarily those of the Community Foundation.

Deadline for the June/July issue is May 10. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or space.

Circulation for this issue: 9,000

## New Bernal Journal Staff/Volunteers

<b>Editor</b>	Arthur B. Kalson
<b>Senior Page Editor</b>	Vicki Victoria
<b>Design &amp; Typography</b>	PRINTZ
<b>Photography</b>	CaliCo Graphics, Stan Moore, Patti Levey, A.R.C. productions
<b>Printing</b>	Howard Quinn Company
<b>Advertising</b>	A.R.C. productions, G. Housan Parnell III
<b>Distribution</b>	Mauricio Vela, Marci Wilson, and a cast of hundreds!
<b>Contributors to this issue</b>	Barbara Bagot, Glen Belen, D.D.S., Dorothy Coakley, Jeanette Conley, Gail Corbitt, Rev. Carolyn Dyson, Barbara Garcia, Helen Helfer, Tom Kellogg, Stella Loaisiga, Jessica Murray, Barbara Pitschel, Elizabeth Reiss, Peggy Turnipseed, Mauricio Vela, Claudia Viek.

Advertising: 648-0330

Copyright 1990 by  
Bernal Heights Community Foundation

The *New Bernal Journal* is a member of the  
San Francisco Neighborhood Newspaper Association.



Become a Bernal Journal  
Distributor! Call 648-0330.

## Subscribe to the Bernal Journal !!!

Have your favorite neighborhood  
newspaper delivered to your door.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ \$8.00 for one year  
☐ \$15.00 for two years  
☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_ donation  
☐ I would like to volunteer for the *BJ*  
☐ I would like to help distribute the *BJ*

send to:

The Bernal Journal  
515 Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Your contribution is tax-deductible.

## Letters

### Safeway #739: The Readers Respond

Here are the responses we received to our Spotlight article on Safeway. We hope that readers will continue to communicate with us on this or any other issue. We won't publish an unsigned letter, but will withhold your name upon request.

#### Prices will go through the roof.

I am writing in response to your article about the Safeway putting in a salad bar, bakery, fish store, etc. Love to see where they are going to put everything. Bet prices will go through the roof. When they put new freezer chest in, the price of a 1 gallon jug of non-fat milk shot up from \$1.60 something to \$1.99. Can not be milk prices in general because Cala has been charging \$1.98 for months. Sure they still have some bargains, but I am still sure some prices at least will go through the roof. Not everyone can go elsewhere for their supplies.

Diana Richman

#### Safeway Memories

My first memory of Safeway goes back about 25 years. It was in San Diego, and I was riding on the shoulders of a friend of my mother, who was walking a picket line in front of the Safeway. We were asking people not to shop Safeway and to support the farmworkers' (NFWA—this was pre-UFW).

So when I moved to San Francisco, to Cortland and Coleridge, not far from the Mission supermarket, I was not immediately inclined to look at it as a friendly neighborhood store. Safeway still had negative connotations to me, and I preferred to do my shopping at a community collective grocery not a lot farther away. Eventually, being a creature of convenience like many of my fellow humans, I did begin to shop at the nearby supermercado on occasion. I was impressed by the international foods that the store had, but not so pleased with other aspects. I wrote notes to the store manager more than once, remarking that the so-called gourmet cheeses were frequently moldy, or became moldy soon after they were purchased. I got no response, not even an acknowledgement.

Now there is renewed pressure from the farmworkers whose campaign, they say, is aimed at making agriculture safe for the workers and the consumers. I am one who has decided to take my business elsewhere, to a store with somewhat smaller selection, somewhat higher prices, and a great deal more of a community feeling. I know there are others in Bernal Heights and the Mission who can't afford to do so, even if they are inclined to do so. I understand that. But I am one who would like to see the Safeway, like the Standard Brands, open up to the community and return to the neighborhood a little of what it has got from the neighborhood in the time it has been here.

Carlos Alcala

(Carlos Alcala was the NBJ Editor during the early '80's. The Noe Valley Community Store is located at the corner of 29th and Sanchez Streets.—Ed.)

#### Months of frustration

When I moved to Bernal Heights four years ago, I was pleased that Safeway was close by. But after months of frustration over the long lines and lack of decent fresh foods (particularly advertised specials, which were rarely in stock) I began driving farther, to Bell Market on 24th Street, Cala on South Van Ness, even up to Diamond Heights.

I hope your editorial encourages enough of us to complain and shop elsewhere so that Safeway gets the message. They can, of course, close #739, but it is cheaper and in their best interest to make the store better and therefore more profitable.

Until I can shop there without frustration, I'll keep driving up the road and spending my money at Bell.

Andrew Rich

#### Bernal Heights vs. Diamond Heights

It's hard not to compare the Safeway at 29th Street with the one in Diamond Heights. "Our Safeway" has obtrusive shoplifter detectors, a constantly slippery floor from squished produce that no one has mopped up, too narrow aisles, and meat that is usually past the expiration date.

The Diamond Heights Safeway, on the other hand, is like an immaculate food Disneyland complete with a salad bar and fresh fish section. Of course, Diamond Heights shoppers are predominantly white, while 29th Street shoppers are not. Absolutely the word RACISM comes to mind.

Because I can drive there, I make that trip to the Diamond Heights Safeway because the selection is so much better and the atmosphere more conducive to buying food. (I was encouraged, however, by the article's report that 29th Street was scheduled to undergo a facelift.)

But there is another reason why I won't shop at 29th Street anymore. One time, if I had been less street-smart, I would've parted from my wallet by the man behind me in line. And another time, my husband caught a young shoplifter who slipped away from a security guard and was running toward the door. Who needs it?

It's intolerable that Safeway gets away with maintaining a poor quality store because of the general low economic status of the people who shop there. On the other hand, I bet the Diamond Heights Safeway doesn't have the need for security guards as often as 29th Street. I think this is a chicken and egg question. Safeway should treat every shopper respectfully and equally, and everyone should act like civilized human beings rather than barbarians. Until I see some kind of progress, I'll make the effort to buy my eggs at the Diamond Heights Store.

Lisa Sikie

#### Safeway's Generosity

Bill Burns, Manager of (the 29th Street) Safeway store, has been generous in his support of Children's Self-Help Center. We recently relocated to new offices after the earthquake and thanked donors of furniture and funds for our move with an open-house. Safeway Stores provided us with gift certificates and food for our thank-you party. I hope that Safeway Stores continue to and are recognized for supporting the community.

Jacqueline Janssen

Development Coordinator  
Children's Self-Help Center

I've lived on the Hill since 1953, have been active in St. Kevin's Parish since 1969, and am a member of the Women's Guild. If not for Safeway Store #739, our Guild Breakfast, Champagne Bingo, and Festival would not be as successful. The managers have been very generous with us. Mr. Amando Chiono who was with us a long time. Mr. Chan not as long. He also understood. Mr. Burns is new, but he came through for us.

As for the Anti-shoplifting Security System, if Safeway and other stores don't have these systems people would have a field day.

Alice Gilbeaux

(Most of us would agree that shoplifting creates problems for all of us. The real issue is whether or not our neighborhood is treated differently than others.—Ed.)

St. Kevin's Church has a parish organization, known as the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, whose purpose is to assist families and individuals in need. This is a year-round effort; however, during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays special efforts are made to share with others. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas the men and women of St. Vincent de Paul supply about 60 baskets of food and turkeys to families in the Bernal Heights Community. The members have repeatedly told me how cooperative and generous Safeway and its managers have been in this work.

I feel it important that your readers know of Safeway's contribution to many of the families in the Bernal Heights neighborhood for many years, especially at Thanksgiving and Christmas time.

Rev. James E. O'Malley  
Pastor, St. Kevin's Church

*Corrections: The article on Nurse-midwives in our last issue stated that most nurse-midwives in California deliver babies at home. In fact, most of them deliver in hospitals. Also, we misspelled the name of Dr. Susan Willman of Bay Area Midwifery Services. The NBJ regrets the errors.*

## To the Editor:

I have enclosed a number of articles in order to acquaint you with the true nature of the Bernal Greens organization that is operating in Bernal Heights and co-publishing *Bay Greens* newspaper. Be advised that neither Bernal Greens nor Bay Greens have any relationship with either the U.S. Greens Committee of Correspondence or the European green movement. I have been talking with with *Bay Greens* advertisers in Bernal Heights and have been told by several of them that they were told that your paper is cooperating with *Bay Greens* and supporting each other's endeavors. If this is the case then I feel that it is imperative for you to look at the enclosed materials and find out exactly who it is that you are cooperating with . . .

Bob van Holdt  
San Francisco Greens  
Northern California  
Regional Greens

(Those of you who read other publications besides NBJ are probably aware that there is some controversy surrounding the Bernal Greens, and that Mr. van Holdt is a former member. For the record, the New Bernal Journal is sponsored by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, a community-based non-profit organization working to "preserve the ethnic, cultural, and economic diversity of Bernal Heights and improve the economic condition of low and moderate income people in Bernal Heights." The Bay Greens/Bernal Greens calls itself "Newspaper of the Bay Area Eco-Pacifist Greens", a politi-

cal party. The NBJ and the BG/BG cannot, by law, share facilities, staff, or revenues, and we abide by those laws. There is no connection whatsoever between the two publications. Advertisers do get us mixed up occasionally, and we tell them exactly what we are telling you. Some business operators choose to advertise with them, some with us, and some with both.

The Editors of BG/BG are Trudy Richards and Jorge Espinet, a husband and wife who live and work on Cortland Avenue. They are well aware of the differences between our two newspapers and have never made the slightest attempt to compromise our position. When we meet on the street, we admire each other's children, and commiserate about the high price of shoes. In short, we are neighbors. Being a good neighbor is one of the highest values in Bernal Heights, a value that transcends our differences, and helps us to work together for the common good. Regardless of our personal opinion about the Bernal Greens/Bay Greens, or any other organization, we will continue to be a good neighbor. Courtesy is not conspiracy.

Those of you who are interested in the material that Mr. van Holdt is referring to can go to the Library and look up the June 28, 1989 issue of the SF Bay Guardian, or the December 26, 1989 issue of The Village Voice. We were interviewed briefly on the telephone by reporter Paul Kauber of the SF Bay Guardian for the article in question, but our comments were not used. (Ed.)



Bernal Heights mourns the tragic death of ten-year old Larry Foster Jr., accidentally shot by a friend while playing with a handgun. Larry was full of potential. There is no way to measure the loss. Our hearts go out to both families and their friends, as we examine our own lives, and the prices we've all had to pay.

## A Special Invitation to Help Reduce Homelessness

To support Proposition #107

The Housing and Homeless Bond Act on the June Ballot.

The Act authorizes \$450 million to finance housing programs for the homeless, elderly, handicapped and families with children. Join the Bernal Heights Community Foundation and affordable housing advocates throughout the City

at El Rio on Mission Street, Thursday, April 26th, 5:00 - 7:00pm  
With Special Guest Gordon Chin. Donation is \$10 per person.  
For more information, call 648-0330

From the California Right to Housing Campaign: "For years, thousands of Californians have worked in their communities to provide shelter and housing for the homeless, seniors and young families. But with the loss of federal subsidies, we have seen modest housing gains overshadowed by enormous growth in

housing needs. Last year, housing activists throughout California helped leverage the \$200,000 Proposition 77 and 84 campaigns into \$450 million in housing commitments. But this is not nearly enough. We must start right now to build on that success.

Grassroots lobbying is our most effective weapon. We need to elevate housing and homeless-

ness to the top of the political agendas of every California candidate and elected official by creating a statewide citizen's coalition that no politician can ignore."

(For more information on Proposition #107, contact The California Right to Housing Campaign, 2000 "O" Street, Suite 230, Sacramento, CA 95814)

## Sister Janet Simons Leaves St. Kevins

by Gail Corbitt

Sr. Janet Simons of St. Kevins Church left her position there in February after 18 years. For those of us who have known and worked with her, as most of us have, it is hard to imagine how we will survive without her. She will continue to oversee the preschool at St. Kevins this year. She stated in a letter to St. Kevin's parishioners, "My experiences over the past year, especially with the death of my mother, have led me to reflect on my life and career. I have decided to change my work and leave St. Kevins. It brings sadness to leave the many people I have grown to love as family. But those who know me will know it is a good decision."

In the time she has worked in Bernal Heights her energy, professional skills as educator, and grassroots organizer have benefited the entire community. She was one of the original founders

of the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center in 1975, and she and Marie Malveaux started the senior program in 1979. She created a summer tutoring program that lasted for 10 years. She was a member of the BHCF board for

1974. As a Co-op it educated both children and their parents."

Buck Bagot, long time Bernal Heights activist and co-founder of the BHCF with Sr. Janet said "Bernal Heights is one of the best organized neighborhoods in San

Francisco, and Sr. Janet is one of the best organizers we have ever had. Whether bringing seniors together to form the senior program or chairing the BHCF Neighborhood Committee, Sr. Janet was in the forefront leading and empowering people. People always talk about how important it is to involve the minority communities in our neighborhood, but Sr. Janet didn't just talk. She raised the money for the Hispanic Caucus for the BHCF Community Congress and recruited Central American immigrant leaders for the BHCF board. She's one tough cookie! I hope she comes back to Bernal, but wherever she goes people will be the better for it."

Father James O'Malley, Pastor of St. Kevins, said, "When Sr. Janet came to St. Kevins part time 22 years ago, she brought the conviction that she would start something and spin it off to others. She has no qualms about relinquishing authority. She began part time in a program for inner city Blacks and later became a parish sister, mainly in education. She developed the two-year communion program and demanded the cooperation of parents as well as the children. She also developed the

idea of each child having a sponsor so they could keep the family informed on the child's progress.

She's been outstanding in the summer program, which has had as many as 400 youth in a summer. I can't tell you the hours of planning she's put into it. She's very responsible. She's also very talented musically and a gifted composer. As the person responsible for the liturgy at the Spanish/English mass, she has a real sense of contact with the audience."

Vicki Victoria grew up in Bernal Heights and is now Director of the Senior Program at the BHCF. She said, "As a youth I saw her as a positive role model because she was a good organizer, multi-talented, and an endless whirlwind of energy and ideas. As a teen she inspired me to go out there and discover what my role was and what I could do with my talents."

Best wishes, Sr. Janet, and please come back to visit.



(l to r) Vernon Tarriel, Vicki Victoria, Sr. Janet Simons, Olga Pelligrini

several years and was instrumental in establishing the Community Congress. She has worked tirelessly to empower the minority cultures in Bernal Heights. But Sr. Janet says, "To me, my biggest achievement is the preschool at St. Kevins which I started in

Francisco, and Sr. Janet is one of the best organizers we have ever had. Whether bringing seniors together to form the senior program or chairing the BHCF Neighborhood Committee, Sr. Janet was in the forefront leading and empowering people. People always

## St. Kevins Temporary Homeless Shelter

by Gail Corbitt

For the week of February 25 through March 5, St. Kevins became a homeless shelter for families through the Mayor's Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness. (See Page One of the February/March *New Bernal Journal* for details about the program, which operated out of St. Anthony's at that time.)

St. Kevins volunteers, with the assistance of St. Vincent De Paul leadership, provided sleeping and eating facilities for homeless families. The Dinner meal was provided by St. Emydius Church in Ingleside and breakfast was provided by various St. Kevins families.

On Sunday evening before our first guests arrived we were all nervous. The tables were set for dinner, the cots were there, but what would we say as we shared dinner with our guests? For us it turned out to be an eye-opening week as we met some very nice people who had experienced some bad times. One family with three children was there because the father had been laid off his job and they just needed a place to stay for a while until he found work again. Several of our guests were older women, and one said she had family in Marin who wanted to come visit her but she was ashamed to let them know that she was homeless.

One of the greatest joys during the week was getting to

know a young couple from Alabama with a two-year old. They had come here in search of work and considered themselves extremely fortunate to have someone who let them use their address and phone number on job applications. I asked the mother how she managed on the streets with a small child. She said it was very difficult, but she and her husband spent part of each day looking for a job and the rest at various parks so that the child would have a break from a difficult existence. During their time at the shelter both the mother and father found jobs and began looking for their own place to live. We all shared their happiness.

It took a lot of hard work to make this shelter happen. The

number of volunteers was overwhelming and demonstrated that we do want to help the homeless. Extra thanks go to Dan Rosen who carefully planned the entire week; and to the volunteers from St. Emydius Church, under the leadership of Margaret O'Neill and her husband Bob, who said, "We all care about homeless people but this gives us a chance to translate our words into action." The meals were delicious, and leftovers were donated to St. Martin de Porres House on Potrero, a homeless facility that the O'Neills were instrumental in establishing. Also, we appreciate Toni Grabbe, owner of Marvin Gardens Florist on Cortland who donated four free bouquets for our dining tables. This is not unusual for Toni, who has a long history of supporting our community, but again demonstrated that people do care. And thanks to the folks who got up before dawn to prepare a hot breakfast each day.

All of us who made a minor contribution felt we came away with more than we gave.



Volunteers serve a hearty dinner to their homeless guests: (l to r) unidentified St. Emydius volunteer, Margaret Nelson, Maria Balmana, Margaret O'Neill, Marci Wilson, Anita Provost



The NBJ is proud to welcome G. Housan Parnell III as our Advertising Sales Representative. A long-time Bernal Heights resident, Mr. Parnell is the nephew of Helen Parnell, President of the Coleridge Park Homes Tenants Association.



The BHCF welcomes new Fiscal Manager Jeff Bachman. His hard-headed financial skills and whimsical personality have brought us more efficient organization and a lot of fun.



**BERNAL HEIGHTS  
EXPERTS**



**PATRICK BARBER and CHRISTIAN LINDGREN**

are

**PROFESSIONAL and DEDICATED**

to

**SELL YOUR PROPERTY**

for

**THE MOST MONEY**

in

**A TIMELY MANNER!**

call

**PATRICK and CHRIS**

**474-1750**



## Alemany Notes

by Barbara Garcia

Welcome to Alemany, Peggy Turnipseed! I like the idea that at Alemany we are moving in a positive way. Instead of more police to solve our problems, we are working on finding more jobs for both youth and adults. The Afterschool Tutorial is still thriving and that says we believe in our children. And there is proof positive that the construction is happening. I'm optimistic that within two years we will all be living in freshly painted apartments with showers, central heating, and roomier kitchens.

Good-bye to Value Giant, or is it Giant Value? Remember the mostly middle-aged women who stood out in front of Value Giant to protest the unfairness of having their benefits taken away? But we kept shopping there anyway. Eventually, the women lost their strike and went away. Now,

as a final "thank you" to our community, the New York firm that owns Value Giant is closing it down. I wonder what will be there next? I would like to see an SF-owned department store with good quality and low prices, that pays its employees a decent wage.

I like to shop at Cala! It's convenient and cheap, but mostly I like Cala because when the lines get too long, and they open another checkstand, they start the new line with people who have already been waiting. It may seem like a small thing, but our lives are full of small things that do matter.

There was a big fire at 21st and S. Van Ness last Sunday. I hurried over to see the excitement. As I watched, I realized there were no women firefighters, no Black, Latin, or Asian firefighters—just white men. Wake up, Mr. Fire Chief!! Our taxes pay you, and pay you well, but you aren't doing your job. You

are not being an equal opportunity employer, and that is against the law. Not a very good example to set for teaching people to respect the law.

An amazing bit of information: Of all the industrialized nations in the world, the U.S.A. and South Africa are the only ones who do not have a national health plan. It seems like plain good sense to me that all citizens have equal access to education, employment, and health care. Of course, if we continue to pollute and destroy the world's natural resources, we might all end up with an equal share of nothing.

Our neighbors moved last week. I didn't get a chance to say good-bye. So good-bye, Brandy and Angelique, and LaToya. And Good-bye to Pam and Ann. We are going to miss you. You were good neighbors.

# Margaret Randolph: in loving memory

by Barbara Bagot

Bernal Heights lost a dear, devoted friend early this year. Margaret Randolph left behind her beloved husband Bob, generations of adoring cats, and a legacy of love for her neighbors and future Bernal generations.

I first met Margaret at a meeting of the Northwest Bernal Block Club in 1977. Neighbors had gathered to discuss their concerns about the large, expensive housing being built on the danerously narrow 100-block of Elsie Street. Margaret lived below the housing on Winfield Street for almost thirty years, and was concerned about keeping Bernal Heights a safe, affordable place for all kinds of people to live. Along with the late Jeanne Hamer, Margaret formed the backbone and inspiration of the block club, and helped lead the fight at City Hall to ensure that a safe street would be built before further development.

Although never anxious to do public-speaking, Margaret would dutifully deliver her careful-worded speeches with class and conviction to the City Planning Commission, Board of Permit

Appeals, and Board of Supervisors. Even with her frail voice—when Margaret spoke, politicians listened!

A co-founder of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation (BHCF), Margaret served on the Board of Directors for eight years, and served as Treasurer for many of those years. She labored for hours to produce accurate monthly Treasurer's Reports and would patiently explain them to those of us less skilled in numbers. She devoted many hours to the Planning, Housing, and Development Committee, helping to monitor the Rehab Loan Program as well as planning for the BHCF's affordable housing developments.

Over the years, her toughest task

seemed to be "keeping the boys in line", and she had quite a job with not-so-young-boys Earl, Marc, Buck, and Roger! Whenever someone (usually Buck) would say a "bad word" during a heated discussion, a chorus would chime "Sorry, Margaret."

We always kidded Margaret that she was our "token Republican" Well, Bob recently informed us that she actually became a Democrat two years ago!

Her "problem" leg worsened, but that never kept Margaret from attending numerous meetings and hearings. Buck would always appropriate someone's briefcase, or a wastebasket, or a Headstart kiddie chair, for Margaret to prop her foot up on. For a

tree-planting ceremony in her honor, we carried her in a chair "Cleopatra-style" up the Esmeralda steps.

Her husband Bob's favorite vision of Margaret is seeing her stretched out in her LAZY-BOY chair, covered with her cats. Here's a partial roll call of her little loves over the year: Momma, Sister, Stasha, Cally, Fuzzy, Cutie, Punky, Minnie, Ming, Meow, Pootsie, Tiny...

Margaret, we miss you. But your legacy lives on in the Esmeralda Mini-Park, Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, Holladay Avenue Homes, Coleridge Park Homes, in the trees atop Bernal Hill, and in the hearts and minds of all the neighbors who had the honor and pleasure of working with you, of seeing your beautiful smile.

*Note: neighbors will be planting a grove of trees on the hill in her honor. Please send contributions for Margaret's Grove to Linda Aurichio, 79 Elsie Street, SF 94110.*



Margaret Randolph with Sedalia Brown, celebrating another community victory. She helped to win many!

## Surveyed Neighbors Support Affordable Housing

by Elizabeth Reiss  
Intern, SF State  
School of Urban Design

During the months of October and November of 1989, Bernal Heights Community Foundation conducted a resident's survey. The purpose of the survey was to learn the level of support BHCF might expect on a proposed affordable housing development for the Army Mission area. The site being considered is next to Tap Plastics on Mission, and bounded by Army, Precita, and Shotwell streets.

Fifty seven residents living in the immediate area were interviewed. Of the 57 respondents, 81% said they would support an affordable housing development in their neighborhood. Since part of this development might include commercial space, residents were asked about their shopping habits. Sixty-five percent of those polled, shop in the neighborhood, and 35% choose to shop in other neighborhoods or in other cities, usually close to their place of employment. Selection of goods being unattractive, was the most cited reason for choosing to shop elsewhere. Another question asked residents what additional types of stores or services they felt would be an important addition to the neighborhood. Respondents suggested community art space, a health food store, and several people mentioned a specialty/gourmet food store.

Another area of the survey dealt with parking and traffic problems in the immediate area.

Sixty percent of the respondents are located on the South East block of the Army Mission intersection. Of those, 60% live on Precita or Coso streets. When asked what one thing the respondent would change about his/her neighborhood, the most frequent response had to do with parking, and the speed of traffic on Precita. When residents were asked if they would support a public metered parking lot in the area, 55% said yes, and 55% said they would use it if it were located nearby. Most expressed concern that the lot have 24 hour security to control vandalism and vagrant usage.

Another segment of questions dealt with residents feelings about his/her neighborhood, and the level of concern about drug dealing, violent crime and vandalism in the area, particularly after dark. There were several open ended questions throughout the survey where a respondent is given the opportunity to express concern for these issues. In only a few cases, did a respondent offer that drug dealing and violent crimes were of major concern. When these problems were mentioned, it was generally in reference to Precita Park. Question one of the survey, asked the resident to rate their neighborhood on a scale of 1 to 5 "as a place to live." The average score is a 2.1, which falls between 2-good, and 1-excellent. Thirty percent reported the neighborhood was an excellent place to live; 38% a good place to live, 23% fair, and 8% stated it was a poor place to live.

## Small Business Advisory

By Claudia Viek

**Q: I need to do some financial planning for 1990 but I am not sure how to proceed with projections. Is there an easy way to get started**

**A:** If you have been in business for at least one year and keeping books, you will need some historical data as a starting point. Based on last year, "guesstimate" a best case scenario for income for the year - by billable hours per day, week or month; by number of customers and average sales per customer, or number of jobs and estimated bid per job. From projected sales deduct estimated variable and fixed expenses, taking into consideration any increases due to expansion,

additional marketing, or hiring personnel to fulfill the income projections. The resulting difference between projected income and estimated expenses will be the net profit available for you, the owner or partner of the business. If the projected amount available is not enough for your personal expenses, then you can reduce expenses or increase projected income. The projection will be your basic financial plan for 1990.

If you are a new business, you will need to talk to as many similar businesses as you can so that you can get a sense of income in the initial months of business, ranges of prices for services and how much to allocate for expenses. For both start-up and

expanding businesses it will be necessary to consider industry sales patterns, seasonal fluctuations, traditional slow months, and the tendency of all business owners to over estimate income and underestimate expenses. However, the exercise is extremely important for all small businesses. It brings reality to the business and creates a "blueprint" for the owner to follow as the business grows and changes through the year.

*This column was prepared with the assistance of Paul Terry of Paul Terry & Assoc., business consultants. Claudia Viek is Executive Director of the San Francisco Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center.*

### Pet Express

SINCE 1968

(415) 821-7111

- ♥ **Boarding** For pets in large indoor-outdoor runs. Special care for special pets.
- ♥ **Grooming** & flea control. All breeds. Cats too! Hot oil treatments!
- ♥ **Shipping** To move your pet across town, across the country or world.
- ♥ **Gift Shop** Quality pet foods, travel kennels, treats, toys, beds & accessories.



Mandy & Clyde

OFFICE HOURS: Mon - Fri 7-7 • Sat 9-6 • Sun, noon-4

Come by & visit us at our new location:

1000 Iowa Street (Between 23rd & 25th) San Francisco, CA 94107

**FREE SAMPLE**

Puppy, Adult, Senior Dog Food  
Cat/Kitten Food



**LICK YOUR CHOPS**

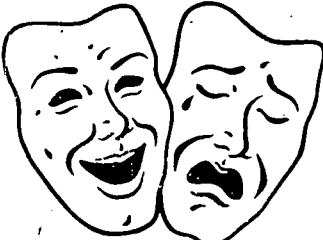
GASTON

**FREE SAMPLE**

Puppy, Adult, Senior Dog Food  
Cat/Kitten Food

OPTIMUM NUTRITION, CARE AND SERVICES FOR YOUR PET

# Arts & ENTERTAINMENT



**El Rio** 3158 Mission 282-3325 *your dive!*

**WED THU FRI SAT** April 90

<b>SUN</b> 4 to 8 <b>Grupo Sinigual</b> i Salsacional!	<b>Comedy Night</b> 9 to 11 Teresa Holcomb Josh Kornbluth Lisa Geduldig	<b>Cocktail Party</b> 9 to 11 No cover Sister Woman Geneva Gregory Carey Elton Brown	<b>Rock &amp; Roll</b> 10 to 11 El Beergarden noon-7 Dance/Lounge 10-2 di Franco di Elton Brown
<b>Voz</b> Pop, Brazilian Lambada	Tom Ammiano Laura Milligan Shan Carr Ralph Tyko	Yavonda Renwick Marilyn Pittman Cory Iwatsu	<b>White Trash Debutantes</b> Stevie Sinatra Pieces of Lisa
<b>Candela</b> Salsa	Marga Gomez Karen Ripley Scott Capurro	Tony Rainbeau Maureen Brownsey Elton Brown	<b>Pecker Woods</b> Medicine Men DC TV
<b>Jeff Narell</b> Rhythm and Steel Caribbean Music	Danny Williams Shyama Andrea Levin Ken Crow	Joel Griffith Randy Gerson Mari Shine Cory Iwatsu	<b>Paul Collins</b> and the Beat Zsa Zsa House The Believers
<b>Fuzz Factor</b> Marimbás <b>Motor Dude</b> Zydeco		Female Impersonator Exotic Dancer Comedian D.J.	



Amy Tractenberg at home in her studio. Behind her is a work-in-progress that utilizes some of her favorite techniques

## Neighborhood Artist: Amy Tractenberg

Amy Tractenberg is a third-generation artist who combines traditional drawing and painting skills with an abstract approach to collages. The work shown in the accompanying photograph began as three separate sections, which Amy combined, adding jagged segments of broken phonograph records. The piece is as yet unfinished and untitled. "My works know what they are way before I know what they are," she told us, "They're signals for something coming, and it usually takes time for me to catch up to them."

Amy calls herself "a radio junkie". She frequently listens to National Public Radio in her studio, and sometimes finds images of nuclear and environmental disasters in her art. Nevertheless, she believes that hard work and commitment counteracts feelings

of despair.

Being a mother has forced Amy to be very disciplined. After taking her two young sons to school, she goes directly to her home studio to work. "It's very easy to use the kids as an excuse for not working," explained Amy. "Thanks to the support of my husband Jeff Miller, I'm able to keep at it."

Jeff is a landscape architect who has done a lot of work here on the hill, and Amy considers him to be an artist in his own right. They both hope to create a series of Bernal Hill pathways dedicated to neighborhood people who have worked for peace.

Both Amy and Jeff are very active in community affairs, with special interest in the Library, the Bernal Heights Democratic Club, the Community Foundation, and Little People's Workshop Coop.

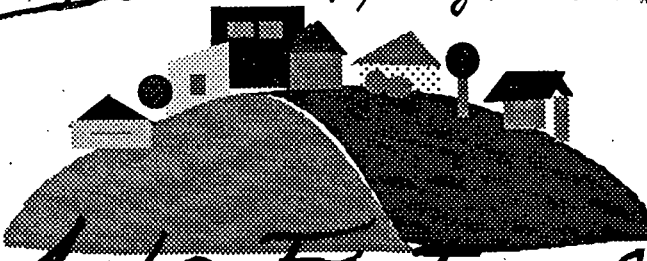
They devoted a great deal of energy to saving LPW when its future was in doubt. "That experience gave us a lot of feeling for this neighborhood," she told us.

Amy will teach art to young children at Sonoma State this summer. She feels that school art programs are usually too "product-oriented", because parents (she includes herself in this) are easily dazzled by what their children can make. Her own children have already shown a strong interest in both art and gardening, and seem to appreciate their mother's unique personal vision.

Amy Tractenberg will be exhibiting her works at Spectrum, a new performance and gallery space at 511 Harrison Street. for more information, call 285-6431. Support your neighborhood artist!

BERNAL HEIGHTS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION/S.F. PARK & REC presents

## Bernal Heights Arts Festival



Community Education & Information Booths • Petting Zoo •  
**LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • ART**  
Arts & Crafts Making • Face Painting • Admission Is Free!

saturday  
June 30, 1990  
12:00 pm - 5:00



OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1990 • 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
A WINE & HORS D'OEUVRE RECEPTION: \$15.00 TO BENEFIT THE ARTS FESTIVAL

2 ARTS FESTIVAL LOCATIONS!  
**ARTS FESTIVAL GALLERY**  
515 CORTLAND AVENUE AT MOULTRIE STREET  
**BERNAL PLAYGROUND**  
ON MOULTRIE STREET AT CORTLAND AVENUE  
**SAN FRANCISCO**

CALL NOW! for available festival booth & table spaces

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE BHCF AT: 648-0330

visual, performing and musical artists - APPLY NOW!

## Les Miserables: Musical Theater at its Best

by Amie Barrows

Based on the 1862 novel by Victor Hugo, this musical sensation has taken San Francisco theatergoers by storm. *Les Miserables* has been playing at the Curran Theater since October, and will be playing there until the beginning of June.

The story is set during the students' revolt in France, sometime after the French Revolution, mostly in Paris. It is the story of the struggles of common people during this time, particularly the life of Jean Valjean, played by Rich Herbert. Valjean is arrested for stealing a loaf of bread to feed his starving family. After he is convicted, Valjean is imprisoned in Toulon, and is no longer Jean Valjean, but Number 24601.

Here is where the play opens, at Toulon, with the chain gang singing "Look Down". As the story progresses, Valjean is released from prison and illegally takes on a new name to avoid his past. He moves to Montreuil-sur-Mer, and becomes a factory owner and mayor. Throughout the play, Valjean is stalked by Inspector Javert, played by Richard Kinsey. It comes to pass that Valjean adopts the child of a dead factory employee, Fantine, played by Kelly Ground. In order to protect his adopted daughter and hide from Javert, Valjean leaves his factory for Paris. Here,

the story of the Student's Revolt unfolds.

Throughout the play, in the back of my mind was the irony of the characters' roles. Javert, the policeman on the side of law and order, plays the role of the villain. Valjean, the "criminal" with a false identity, plays the role of the hero. Although Javert is morally justified in his hunt for Valjean, Valjean's great inner character draws emotion from the audience. The audience feels compassion for Valjean while Javert elicits ill feelings. The only scene in which Javert evokes empathy is when he sings "Stars", which is about his belief that he is doing the right thing.

The music alone is enough to make an award-winning presentation, and when it is combined with Hugo's excellent story of human struggles, the outcome is breath-taking. Every aspect of this production was as near to flawless as possible. The set was designed to be versatile, and as exciting as the story itself. The revolving stage made it possible for one scene to end and another to begin quickly and smoothly.

The play was developed in such a way that the audience feels involved in the conflict being presented and feels empathy for every character in every scene. There are many characters for one to relate to throughout the story. I strongly recommend this play for people of all ages.

# Neighborhood Shopping Guide

## Buffet Flat Bookstore

We Buy Books!



tu-fri 12-8 Ph. 641-8247  
sat 12-7 sun 12-6  
307 cortland avenue

San Francisco's  
most advanced  
electronic  
design studio  
for all your  
communication  
needs.

PRINT

VIDEO

SLIDES

DESIGN

TRAINING

CONSULTANCY

PRINTZ

## Café Commons

3161 Mission Street  
San Francisco  
282-2928

Espresso, Soups, Salads  
Beer & Wine  
Patio

Hours: M-F 7am-9pm  
S & S 8am-9pm



W

## SAN FRANCISCO AUTO REPAIR CENTER

415/285-8588

FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AUTO REPAIRS

- NOW OPEN 7 DAYS!
- Dependable Work-Honest Prices
- Basic Auto Repair Classes
- A Community-Oriented People's Garage
- Men & Women Mechanics
- Official California Smog Station

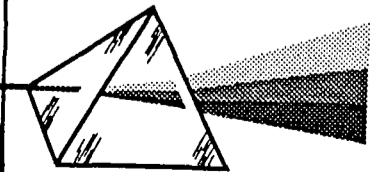


611 Florida St.  
(Near 18th St.)  
San Francisco 94110

T  
I  
I  
C  
3  
S  
2

4

NUTRITION • BODYWORK • SEMINARS



## THE EMERALD EDGE

Jeanette Conley, R.N.  
Director

415/550-0449

# Neighborhood Shopping Guide

SHOWER DOORS  
PLATE



ALUMINUM WINDOWS  
MIRRORS  
STAINED GLASS

**NOE-BERNAL GLASS**

DANIEL W. TORRES

PHONE 285-3181  
401 CORTLAND AVE.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

**BERNAL HEIGHTS**

★ ★ ★ ★  
**FOUR STAR VIDEOS**

VHS RENTALS & SALES

Great Selection Of

- NEW RELEASES
- FOREIGN
- CULT
- CLASSICS
- CHILDREN
- ADULT

Open  
7 Days  
11 to 9PM

**VCR Rentals**  
**641-5380**

We Accept Reservations  
402 Cortland Ave. (at Bennington)



301 Cortland  
S.F. Ca. 94110  
(415) 285-1631

Imad Yaish  
Ziad Yaish



**GLENN S. BELEN, D.D.S.**  
**ELIZABETH O. VASCO, D.D.S.**  
COMPLETE DENTAL CARE

3208 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110

415 641 8900

## SMILE CARD

In order to acquaint you with our office we are offering all our new patients:

- A complete oral exam
- X-rays as needed
- Teeth cleaned and polished

all for \$35.00 (normal cost \$80.00). Take advantage of this opportunity to safeguard your smile. Make an appointment for yourself or the entire family today.

This offer good until May 30, 1990



**Desktop Publishing**

Graphic Design • Illustration • Typesetting

**DATASEARCH**

82 Mirabel Avenue  
San Francisco CA 94110  
(415) 826-0833

**Skip's**  
TAVE



Skip Toole

BOOKS - PAINT  
BOXMAIL RE  
NOTARY PUBLIC

E

Com

V-A

698 Precita & York (at)  
San Francisco, CA 94

*We also clean*



**ARI**

Fre

439 Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 9

Hours: Monday

## LOCKSMITH

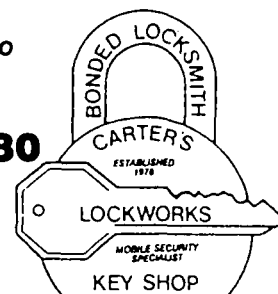
COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL-AUTO

409 CORTLAND AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

**(415) • 282-6780**

M-F 9am-6:30pm  
Sat/Sun Closed  
24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

**KEN DOYLE**  
OWNER



**TONI'S TR**

**Breakfast**  
**Home Cooking**

**Fabulous**  
**San A**

432 Cortland A  
(415) 550-92

## ART MOUNT

- Picture Framing
- Shrink Wrapping
- Posters

430-A Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94110

**647-7722**

**CORTLAND  
LAW OFFICES**

Nancy J. White  
Attorney-at-Law

303 Cortland Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94110

(415) 641-4023

**MARVIN**

Flow

399 Cortland A  
San Francisco, C

**Food to Go**

- Breakfast
- Lunch
- Dinner

Serv

3322 MISSIO

# Neighborhood Shopping Guide



453 CORTLAND AVE.  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110  
(415) 282-3456

Bernal Heights  
YEAR ROUND APPOINTMENT:  
REASONABLE RATES



INCOME TAX  
FEDERAL & STATE  
NOTARY PUBLIC & BOOKKEEPER

FLORA L. ALEXANDER, T.P.  
501 CORTLAND AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110  
(415) 641-4922  
RES. (415) 993-6811



productions

advertising  
training  
marketing

Arthur B. Kalson  
Creative Director

31 Coleridge St. San Francisco, CA 94110 (415) 647-7937

NEES - FURNITURES.  
TALS

Nob Haul  
CLUSIVE's  
ollectables  
ments Accepted  
& AMEX



(415) 285-9738  
armonia & Corp. more!



Yefim Skomorovsky  
Danny Beltran  
415/647-6224

Classic Shades Painting Co., Inc.

187 Coleridge Street #2  
San Francisco, CA 94110

LICENSE #483704

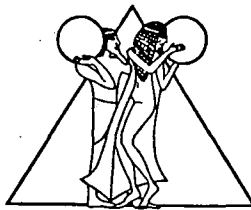
OW PHARMACY  
Prescription Delivery

"since 1968"

Phone 648-5618

ru Saturday 10:00am to 6pm  
Closed Sunday

Facials  
Waxing  
Manicures/Pedicures  
Acupressure  
Aroma body wraps  
Massage  
Reflexology  
Lash tints  
Brow tints  
Ear piercing



THE TOTAL YOU

Body Salon

(415) 641-1251

1419 18th Street S.F., CA. 94107

PIZZA EXPRESS  
RESTAURANT

all natural  
ingredients



Compare  
our Sizes!

919 Cortland Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94110

282-2333

DEWINDS CAFE  
st and Lunch  
Depression Prices

iller" Hamburgers  
onio Omlettes

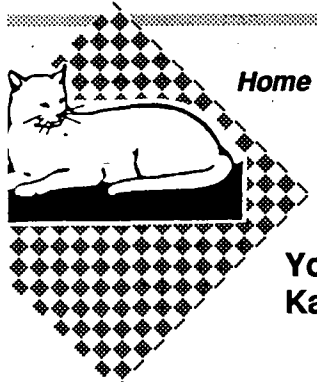
ue 8:30 am-3:00 pm  
Closed Fridays

ARDENS FLORIST  
for All Occasions

ue Toni Grabbe  
94110 (415) 641-8382

TTY'S  
restaurant

Home Cooking



Your Hosts:  
Kay & Louie

he Mission for Over 20 Years  
TREET-SAN FRANCISCO-282-4775

Afterschool  
Services  
For Children

- Affordable Afterschool Care for Children 5-12 years.
- Extended childcare for kindergartners beginning at noon.
- Before school breakfast program.
- Morning and afternoon transportation from several SFUSD schools.
- High quality instruction in Arts, Discovery Room, and Outdoor Recreation.
- Special rates for low-income families
- Sliding scale
- Afternoon snack.
- Christmas & Easter recess camps
- Multi-cultural learning environment.



(415) 826-6880

Jamestown  
Community Center

Marilyn Brown  
Owner

185 Bayshore Blvd.  
San Francisco, CA  
94124  
415.550.2400

AUTO

motion

COMPLETE FOREIGN CAR SERVICE & REPAIR  
TIRES - WHEELS - ALIGNMENTS - BRAKES - SHOCKS



HAIR WEAVING  
MEN/WOMEN

HIGH SOCIETY  
HAIR SALON

521 CORTLAND AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94110

TINA WEBSTER  
(415) 695-2808

I'd like to help you  
buy or sell your home.

I'm very committed  
to my  
Clients.



HEIDI MUELLER  
REALTOR-ASSOCIATE

The Prudential  
California Realty

One Daniel Burnham Court, Suite 260  
San Francisco, California 94109  
415 474 1311 Business  
415 647 5880 Residence  
415 474 1525 Ext. 318 Message  
415 474 4461 FAX

COMMUNITY BOARDS  
OF SAN FRANCISCO

FREE, FAST AND EFFECTIVE CONFLICT RESOLUTION SERVICES.  
RESOLVE DISPUTES PEACEFULLY  
WITHOUT INVOLVING THE POLICE, LAWYERS AND COURTS

161 LELAND AVE., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94134  
239-6100

## BERNAL LIBRARY Calendar

**Bernal Heights Branch Library**  
500 Cortland Avenue at Andover  
285-1744

**April, 1990**

Be a Star! April is National Library Media Month

Tuesday, April 10 through Friday, April 13  
Children's Crafts Table

Come make a card for Passover or Easter  
or just to celebrate Spring

Wednesday, April 25  
Night of a Thousand Stars

Bernal Heights Library will join libraries across the country  
during

**National Library Week**  
in sponsoring a  
"Family Read-Aloud"

with local celebrities reading their favorite stories at 7 pm.  
Come and meet the guiding lights of our community!

Don't put it off! April is the month to learn to use our  
Apple II computer. If you don't know how yet, just ask,  
and we'll help you get started.

**May, 1990**

Wednesday, May 2

Career Night for Children and Teenagers

Find out about different jobs from the people who do them.  
Learn about local colleges—how to get in, and how to do well!

Even young children will enjoy this evening.  
Parents and teachers need it!

Preschool Stories on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 am  
Stories for children learning English as a second language  
on Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm  
Family Storytime Wednesday evenings at 7 pm

**All services are free!!**

**Support your neighborhood library!**

## What is a Children's Librarian?

by Dorothy Coakley,  
Children's Librarian  
Bernal Branch

I'm a Children's Librarian, and proud of it. I have spent many years in school to earn a Master's Degree in library and information studies. I have chosen this as my career not only because I like kids, but because I am interested in finding out what books they like to read, as well as what books they need for school assignments.

You can help me. As a parent, you can bring your children into the library from an early age so that they can become familiar with the sights and sounds of the library, and its collection of children's books. We have a preschool storytime so that children will learn to use books as companions and teachers. Your older child might want to spend time here after school, and you can encourage the child to do so, but please—don't just leave your child at the library for hours at a time, with no place else to go.

Most of all, you can help by allowing me to talk directly to your child. You don't need to act as a "translator". I respect your child, and want to work with her or him to fill requests for information, books, or magazines.

Teachers can help me, too. Please call ahead if you want to bring your class to the library, or if you are planning a major assignment. Librarians can get together a lot of material for your students, if you give us adequate warning. If we get thirty requests for "The Night Before Christmas" the day before Christmas, there isn't much we can do.

Children's Librarians are not "junior librarians". They have the same training and background as all of the other librarians in the system. They know a lot about computers, best-selling books, reference materials, and all of your other questions. If the "adult" librarian is unavailable, please don't hesitate to ask me for help. Just be patient while I help a child with a homework question, or say goodbye to a group of departing preschoolers.

I have been at the Bernal Branch for just over a year. I know most of your children and many of you. Bernal Heights continues to be an exciting place for me to work. We have so many children, so much energy, and so much potential. Please stop by the library if you haven't yet done so. You'll enjoy it—and we enjoy seeing you with your children. Don't be a stranger!

## Cleaning up Bernal Heights

February 17 was the day that members of the BHCF staff, the BHCF Board President, DPW, and residents of the area surrounding the "Tompkins Stairs" located between Nevada and Putnam Streets decided to clean up the filthy staircase.

Despite early rainfall which dampened the turnout, the stairs were cleaned and neighbors met each other. There still exists a need to weed the area surrounding the stairs, and this will be planned in the near future.

The BHCF, with the Cortland Avenue Merchants, is sponsoring the "1990 Cortland Avenue Clean-up" Saturday, April 14, 8:30 am to Noon. Coffee and "pan dulce" will be provided. Cortland Avenue, from Mission Street to Bayshore, will be cleaned.

A separate "Graffiti Crew" will be cruising Cortland Avenue painting out graffiti. We need two or three trucks to accomplish this. If you have a truck and want to help, please call the BHCF at 648-0330. Anyone else who wants to join in can sign up at the Community Center. Be at the Bernal Recreation Center, on Moultrie at Jarboe, 8:30 am on April 21. Brooms and plastic bags will be provided. Bring your own gloves. Let's keep Bernal Heights beautiful!

**FRANK J. GALLAGHER  
REALTY CO.**

SINCE 1944

Experienced Neighborhood Realtors

David Gallagher • Marilyn Driscoll  
Dan Mahoney • Leo Sapienza  
Alice Gonzalez - Secretary

**Frank J. GALLAGHER  
REALTY COMPANY**

3271 Mission Street (at 29th Street)  
San Francisco, CA 94110  
Call: 824-5180

## JUST BECAUSE IT'S LEGAL DOESN'T MEAN IT'S SAFE.

Did you know that alcohol and some medications can cause serious birth defects, even mental retardation?  
Please read labels carefully, consult your doctor, and call your Association for Retarded Citizens for more information.

**arc**  
Association for Retarded Citizens

## Astro-Rap

by Jessica Murray

Neptune is the planet of melting. It is said to govern liquids and lubricants, and as such it is associated with oil. Saturn, the planet of firmament and structure, governs rocks and walls.

These two planets conjoined in the sky all throughout last year. The ill-fated Exxon-Valdez hit Alaskan rocks (Saturn) and fouled the ocean (Neptune) with oil (Neptune again) within days of the first planetary meeting. The Berlin Wall (Saturn) dissolved (Neptune) before the world's eyes within days of the final conjunction.

During the winter months, Saturn has moved ahead of Neptune, and the latter is now making



a stressful transit to the sun in the horoscope of the USA.

All through 1990 and 1991 the Neptunian principle of illusion will wreak havoc upon that collective entity born July 4, 1776. The theme of illusion has al-

ready started to be the subject of new scrutiny as people think about the image-manipulating power of the media, especially in politics.

In April, Neptune will make a reversal in its orbit, and these themes will become even more prominent. Deception and its exposure will be top issues, as the country does some ghost-busting.

For astrological consultation and classes, call Jessica Murray at 626-7795.

## Natural Vitamins vs. United States Pharmacopeia (USP)

by Jeanette Conley, RN

USP vitamins are manufactured in laboratories across the United States. Five main companies produce the majority of vitamins today and sell them under different labels. Vitamins derived from a natural source have been unheard of until recently.

Grow Company, as it's called, produces natural organically bound vitamins and minerals. When these are compared against USP vitamins by Scranton Medical Center, the results are alarming. Grow Company uses no preservatives or colors. USP vitamins commonly contain dyes and stabi-

lizers. More than 50 scientific bioavailability studies indicated that Grow Company's material is, on the average, 3 to 8 times more absorbed and up to 16 times more retained than USP vitamins. These differences are rocking the vitamin world on the edge!

It's important to read labels and pay attention to what you buy, and it is always prudent to consult with a health care professional for any further questions.

Jeanette Conley is owner of *The Emerald Edge* at 737 Cortland Avenue. Hours: Sat. and Sun. 11 am-6 pm. Mon.-Fri. by appointment only. Call 550-0449

## Health Focus

### La Mejor Manera De Atender Sus Emergencias Dentales

por Glen Belen, D.D.S.

Conociendo como atender emergencias dentales no solo puede ayudarle a evitar dolores, sino que también puede significar la diferencia entre salvar un diente o perderlo.

#### Dientes Extraídos Por un Golpe

Recoja el diente de la parte de arriba evitando contacto con las raíces delicadas. Si el diente está sucio, enjuaguelo con agua, pero no lo restregue. Suavemente ponga el diente en un contenido con leche o agua fría o con una toalla húmeda y vaya al dentista preferiblemente entre 30 minutos.

#### Dientes Quebrados o Astillados

Suavemente limpie la suciedad de la parte afectada con agua tibia. Póngase compresores fríos en la cara para protegerse de la inflamación. Guarde los fragmentos del diente, y vea su dentista inmediatamente. Los fragmentos pueden ser a veces pegados y puestos en su lugar otra vez.

#### Pérdidas de Rellenos

Si la pérdida de un relleno le causa dolor, tome cualquier clase de aspirina o medicina para el dolor. Mantenga los dientes limpios, y visite su dentista lo más pronto posible. Si el relleno o superficie de sus dientes es de oro, guárdelo. Muchas veces su dentista lo puede recementar.

#### Infecciones del Diente o Encías

Estas infecciones causan dolor, producen pus e inflamación. No aplique compresores calientes sobre el área afectada. Vaya al dentista inmediatamente.

El Dr. Belen tiene ocho años de tener su oficina en nuestro vecindario en 3208 Mission Street. Para mayor información, llame al 641-8900.

## The Bernal Hill Sidewalk Astronomer

by Tom Kellogg

Everybody likes the moon. Its friendly presence greets all skygazers night and day. It is the only celestial body of which surface details can be seen without optical aid. It is also the only place in outer space that people have visited. Several observational activities are available for the sprouting young skywatcher as well as for seasoned amateur astronomers.

One such activity is following its phases. Full moon, the best known phase, occurs when the moon is in the opposite direction from the sun. It is always found on the ecliptic, the imaginary line in the sky where most of the planets are observed. In a three-dimensional model of our solar

system, the ecliptic is the plane where most of the orbits of other planets and moons are found. The full moon nearest the winter solstice is in the part of the sky nearest the summer solstice, and visa-versa, since the two solstices are located in the sky at two points exactly opposite to each other. That means that the full moon nearest winter solstice is above the horizon for 14 to 15 hours, and rises the highest for everyone in the northern temperate zone.

Conversely the full moon nearest the summer solstice is in the sky for only 9 to 10 hours, and rises to a minimum angular distance above the horizon, thus making for the least illumination for the full moon night hiker. There's an unlimited number of patterns that become apparent

with regular sky gazing. After a short while you will be able to impress your friends by knowing where to find the moon in the daytime, and by knowing when and where it will rise and set.

Another aspect of the moon's position is its distance from the earth. It goes from a minimum distance (i.e. perigee) to a maximum distance (i.e. apogee) every month or so. The typical range is from 56 earth radii to 64 earth radii. The moon's distance from us is one factor that affects the height of the tide. The other major contributing factor is its location in the sky. The closer it gets to being straight overhead (i.e. at the zenith) the more it pulls on your part of the earth. The two maximum tide situations for our northern hemisphere are when the

minimum perigee coincides with the new moon closest to the summer solstice, and when minimum perigee coincides with the full moon nearest the winter solstice. This year the June 22 new moon and the December 2 and the December 31 (blue) full moons will produce the highest tides.

A third lunar observational activity requires the use of a telescope. It is the eagerly sought-after sighting of Lunar Transient Phenomena (LTP), or suddenly occurring flashes whose causes are still unknown. This is a study which is highly valuable and is dependent on amateur observers. For more information on this, see the November 1988 issue of *Sky and Telescope* (page 478).

#### What to Watch for This April and May

Mercury will make a quick appearance in the western sky during April 1-25, right after dusk. Jupiter is the only other planet in the evening sky. Comet Austin will appear in the morning sky around April 20. Sunday, April 22 is Earth Day. And be sure to celebrate Astronomy Day with the San Francisco Amateur Astronomers at Aquatic Park Greens next to the Maritime Museum on Saturday April 28. By May 7, Pluto will be at the closest opposition to earth that it will have for the next 248 years. Alas, our abusive city lights make it impossible to see. If you are in the Sierra with a thirteen-inch telescope at around 11 pm on Friday, May 11, watch the asteroid Juno pass south of Pluto.

## Bernal Hilltop Natural History: Bringing Back a Rare Plant

by Barbara M. Pitschel

The Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration Project is comprised of three essential components. The most obvious, and frequently most appealing, aspect is the expansion of Bernal native bunchgrass prairie to parts of the hill where it had been destroyed by years of grazing and weed invasion. Less exciting, but possibly even more important, is the control of competitive weedy species that are presently threatening remnant native plant populations. The third aspect of the project is an attempt to reintroduce native plants that were recorded on the hill in the past, but which can no longer be found there. I am happy to tell you about one such reintroduction that appears to be successful.

*Arabis blepharophylla* (coast rock cress) is a lovely little perennial that is endemic to rocky outcroppings and grassy slopes along the central California coast. Botanists are quite certain that its type locality, the place where the species was first described, was San Francisco. It is listed in the 1958 flora of San Francisco as growing on Bernal Heights, but, since that

time, our population has been eradicated.

The plant, which usually grows to less than a foot in height, has many leaves forming a basal rosette as well as alternate leaves on the stem. Flowers range from deep pink to purplish rose. It is a member of the mustard family (Cruciferae), and is distinguished by that family's flower pattern of four petals in the form of a Maltese cross.

*Arabis blepharophylla* is on the California Native Plant Society's List 4, plants of limited distribution, which means that it is not threatened with extinction at this time, but that it is uncommon enough to warrant regular monitoring throughout its range. Its rarity is especially significant locally in such areas as San Francisco where remnant natural areas are at an irreducible minimum.

In 1987 the Bernal Hilltop Native Grassland Restoration

Project reintroduced an *Arabis* plant into the test plot at easternmost end of the hilltop. To preserve the local genetic stock, it is important to reintroduce plants from geographically close, ecologically similar populations—other local rocky grassland hilltops or San Bruno Mountain, for example. Rick Clinebell had propagated individuals from

Twin Peaks

*Arabis* seed, and it was one of these that was planted on Bernal. I am happy to report that the plant has flowered this spring for the third year in a row! In December we added

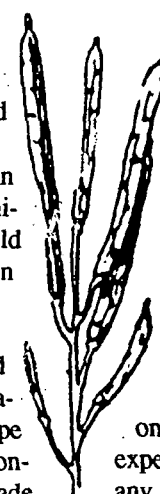
five more plants from the same source to the test planting. We hope that some of these individu-

als will soon begin to reseed themselves.

*Arabis* was planted in the test plot to facilitate monitoring, but its ideal site would be on the rocky outcrops on the north slope of the hilltop. After the species has been securely reestablished on the hill and after the invasive weeds on the north slope have been sufficiently controlled, attempts will be made to restore it there.

This species, which usually blooms between February and May, is an ideal rock garden or border plant for this area. It grows from a taproot which penetrates between rocks. Once established, it needs little or no summer water when grown in San Francisco fog. Look for it at Strybing Arboretum Society's plant sales or other native plant sales or native plant nurseries in the area. Like most natives, it is best planted in the fall so that it has the advantage of the winter rains (when there are any) to help it become established.

It should be noted (and emphasized) that one of Bernal's commonest weeds, the wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), is a closely related annual with similar struc-



*Arabis blepharophylla*  
from: Abrams, Leroy;  
Illustrated Flora of the  
Pacific States, v.3,  
Stanford, 1944

ture and color. The radish grows much taller and generally has paler purple and sometimes white flowers, as well as toothed leaves mainly on the stem, but it is possible to assume that the *Arabis* is a stunted *Raphanus* plant (I almost did it myself once!) because you just don't expect to find *Arabis* on Bernal any more. Since wild radish is one of the weeds routinely removed at restoration work parties, it is important to heed this warning.

You can see this and other native plants at their peak of bloom if you come to work parties on the third Sunday of each month. Meet by the gate at the foot of the road to the phone company microwave tower at 10 am on April 15 (Easter Sunday) and 11 am on May 20. Volunteers help maintain test plots and control weedy species. The reason the April work party is starting early is that it will be preceded by a California Native Plant Society spring wildflower walk. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you need additional information, you may call me at 282-5066.

Youth news

Bernal Heights Youth Activities Daily Calendar

PROGRAM	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Alemanya MVP Tutorial	1:30-5:00 pm	1:30-5:00 pm	1:30-8:00 pm				
Alemanya Jobs	9:00 am-1:00 pm	9:00 am-1:00 pm	9:00 am-1:00 pm	1:30-5:00 pm	1:30-5:00 pm		
BHCF Jobs	2:00 pm-5:00 pm	2:00 pm-5:00 pm	2:00 pm-5:00 pm	9:00 am-1:00 pm	9:00 am-1:00 pm		
BHCF Brownies		3:30 pm-7:30 pm					
BHCF Teen Video					7:00 pm-9:00 pm		
Junipero Serra Study Hall/Rec.	2:00 pm-5:30 pm	2:00 pm-5:30 pm	2:00 pm-5:30 pm	2:00 pm-5:30 pm	2:00 pm-5:30 pm	11:00 am-5:00 pm	
Bernal Park & Rec.	3:00 pm-6:00 pm	2:30 pm-6:00 pm	2:30 pm-6:00 pm	2:30 pm-6:00 pm	2:30 pm-6:00 pm	10:00 am-5:00 pm	
St. Mary's Park & Rec.	3:00 pm-10:00 pm	1:00 pm-10:00 pm	1:00 pm-10:00 pm	1:00 pm-10:00 pm	1:00 pm-10:00 pm	10:00 am-6:00 pm	12:00 - 5:00 pm
Bernal Library		10:00 am-6:00 pm	1:00 pm-9:00 pm	1:00 pm-6:00 pm	1:00 pm-6:00 pm	1:00 pm-6:00 pm	
Precita Center Rec.	2:00 pm-6:00 pm	2:00 pm-6:00 pm	2:00 pm-6:00 pm	2:00 pm-6:00 pm	2:00 pm-6:00 pm		
Precita Center TaiKwanDoe	6:00 pm-7:00 pm		6:00 pm-7:00 pm				
St. Anthony's Youth Program		7 pm - 9 pm (English)			7 pm - 9 pm (Spanish)		Mass 6 pm (Spanish)
St. Kevin's Youth Program(SKY)	Meeting 7 pm-9 pm						

Alemanya MVP Tutorial/ Jobs	Earl Chase, Peggy Turnipseed .....	641-1116
BHCF	Peggy Turnipseed, Mauricio Vela .....	648-0330
Holly Court	Loretha Monroe, Mauricio Vela .....	648-0330
Junipero Serra	Director's Office .....	285-0252
Bernal Recreation Center	John Connor .....	695-5007
St. Mary's Recreation Center	Sonya Monk .....	695-5006
Bernal Library	Dorothy Coakley .....	285-1744
Precita Center	Roger Hernandez .....	285-7833
St. Anthony's	Tommy King .....	647-2704
St. Kevin's SKY	Pete Rodriguez .....	648-5751

Peggy's Place

by Peggy Turnipseed  
Youth Organizer/  
Job Developer

Summer is approaching us again. I'm pleased to announce that we have youth jobs, and I will be handling the Great America jobs again this summer.

The BHCF now has the Mayor's Youth Employment Education Program (MYEEP). This contract is for the youth living in the Outer Mission. To qualify for the program, you must be from 14 to 18 years old, be from a low-income family, and attend either public or non-public school. The person responsible for the MYEEP program is José Leon, a

new member of the BHCF staff. We wish him well.

I'm in the process of mailing letters out to all the businesses in San Francisco. This letter will help me to develop jobs for more young people through the BHCF.

I meet with Willie Brown's office every Thursday. He is helping us to organize a Camp Mather for youth in May.

For people interested in positions with the U.S. Census Bureau, there is testing every Friday morning at 10 am, at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue.

Have a good summer!

Don't Forget:  
**May 13 is  
Mother's  
Day!**

"Youth Programs are Back"

by Mauricio Vela,  
Assistant Director  
Bernal Heights  
Community Foundation

This will be the theme of the Youth Banquet and Reception on Friday, April 20, at 6 pm, in celebration of the return of youth employment programs administered by the BHCF. The price is reasonable, so why not be a sponsor for \$25? It goes to a great cause.

Youth Committee meetings are now scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. Our next meeting will be on April 26. At the last meeting, Margaret Brod-kin made a presentation about the 1990 Children's Budget, as submitted to the Mayor by Coleman Advocates. The committee agreed to recommend to the BHCF Board that the BHCF formally endorse the Children's Budget, which they did at their meeting on March 26.

During the month of March, the BHCF was successful in obtaining the Mayor's Youth Employment and Education Program (MYEEP) contract for the Outer Mission, and has received the Private Industry Council's staff recommendation for the Summer Youth Employment and Training Program (SYETP) non-public school contract.

In addition, the BHCF is in the process of planning our annual Great America Program. We have recently been awarded a \$7500 grant from the Miranda-Lux Foundation for transportation to Great America. The BHCF is now required to obtain a matching grant.

Both the San Francisco Foundation and the Koret Foundation have generously contributed to the staff cost of our talented Youth Organizer/Job Developer, Peggy Turnipseed. Jose Leon, our newly-hired Youth Employment Coordinator, will manage the MYEEP and SYETP programs.

Thanks to the lobbying efforts of the BHCF Youth Committee and the cooperation of the SF Recreation and Park Staff, the Bernal Recreation Center at Moultrie and Andover Streets will be opening one evening (either Tuesday or Wednesday) a week as we head toward the summer season.

The SFPD PAL has agreed to provide a Boxing Club Coach for 9-14 year-olds, every week from 6-7:30 pm. From 7:30-8:30 pm, youth and adults will be able to participate in an "in-house hunch league", or volleyball on alternate weeks. The last half-hour will be open for free play. In addition, outdoor activities will be coordinated, and a supervised weight room will be opened.

"Yours truly" will be one of the new directors, along with John Connor, and a third director yet to be appointed. If this works out, the BHCF will lobby for an additional night.

We need your assistance to make this project work. Please come down and meet the neighborhood youth. They need to interact with many positive role models. Bernal Rec belongs to all the residents of Bernal Heights, and we should all utilize the facilities. If you have any questions, call me at 648-0330.

The Bernal Heights Community Foundation Youth Committee  
presents

Friday Night at the Movies

April 6	An American Tail	May 4	Robocop
13	Beetlejuice	11	Batman
20	Disorderlies	18	No Holds Barred
27	Friday the 13th, Part VIII	25	Lost Boys

Rap session to follow Time: 7 pm  
Location: Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center  
515 Cortland Avenue  
648-0330  
All movies are free!

Movies donated by Four Star Videos

Good Things to Happen at Holly Court!

by Mauricio Vela  
Assistant Director  
Bernal Heights Community  
Foundation

March 4, 1990 was the third month anniversary of the Holly Court Anti-Crack and Crime Patrol, otherwise known as the "PAL Program". The results of this pilot project have been fantastic and impressive. Police arrests are down by 400% when comparing the month of December, 1988 to December, 1989. Explicit drug dealing on the street is no longer commonplace, and children are once again able to play on the safe streets of Holly Court.

The Head and Randolph Housing Project Tenants and the OMI-Neighbors in Action have

been our partners in coalition throughout this ordeal. Without their tremendous contributions, none of this might have been possible.

The San Francisco Housing Authority has received \$1.5 million, which will be utilized by the SF Police Department towards drug abatement in the city's housing projects. David Gilmore has acknowledged the success of the pilot project, and has agreed with the Holly Court Tenants Association, South Bernal Neighbors Association, and the BHCF that the project should be extended for one additional year in order to deal with the drug users.

Mr. Gilmore has agreed to recommend that monies for two officers be set aside from the \$1.5

million, with the SFPD providing the other two. (Two officers are assigned daily to each of the projects mentioned above.) Final decision about the usage of the money will be made by one of the SFPD deputy chiefs in charge of planning. Mr. Gilmore has agreed to extend the pilot program until this decision is reached.

The Holly Court Community Room, located at 100 Appleton Avenue, is now equipped with educational and recreational equipment for use by the children of Holly Court. This equipment was obtained through a direct-mail campaign to 41 book and toy stores, and contributions from the Bernal Heights Senior Program and SF Police Athletic League. The Community Room is sched-

uled to open for three days a week beginning in April, and will be staffed by the tenants of Holly Court along with "off-duty" police officers.

The Mayor's Office has sent a letter expressing interest on behalf of the tenants regarding a \$500,000 donation from a local developer towards the improvement and rehabilitation of Holly Court. However, no final commitment has been made by any of the interested parties.

Finally, San Francisco Alive Has approached the Holly Court Tenants with a combined contribution of \$30,000 for an Improvement/Beautification Project. The plan consists of an initial clean-up by the Conservation Corps and San Francisco Beautiful. Maintenance of these efforts would be provided by Holly Court youth, who would be hired for ten hours per week to keep up their community. In addition, a recycling component has been built in which will extend the work areas of the participating youth and generate more income for the tenants of Holly Court. Partial funding for this project has come from the SF Housing Authority.

The initial "Graffiti Paint-Out" is scheduled for Saturday, April 21, at 1 pm. Put on your old clothes, bring a brush, and come be a part of the good things happening at Holly Court.



Representing Holly Court, William Tupuola, Harry Tupuola, Gloria Buck, and Kristin Richards receive a gift of sports equipment from the Bernal Heights Senior Program. Grace Williams and Joanna Banks make the presentation.

The 2nd Annual "Soul Food Dinner" in celebration of Black History Month was produced by the Bernal Heights Senior Program as a fundraiser for their program activities and also to purchase sports equipment for the Holly Courts PAL Program. The event featured a delicious BBQ Chicken meal that was made possible through a generous donation by our neighborhood Safeway Store. The evening was filled with gospel song, speeches and poetry.

## New Project for Bernal Heights Frail Elderly

A new project is being developed by the Bernal Heights Community Foundation which will help to benefit our community's elderly. "The Bay Area Independent Elders Program" has invited the BHCF to submit a proposal to form a coalition of senior organizations that serve the elderly in our community.

As a senior citizen, child of elderly parents, organization that has senior members or a business that has senior clients, you are a valuable source of information that will help us to write a grant to receive funds to help the frail elderly in Bernal Heights live independent and healthy lives. Please come to our meeting on:

Thursday, April 19th at 2:30pm in the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. Call 648-0330 for more information

## Senior Garden Club

A gardening club is now being formed for senior citizens who are interested in growing delicious corn, tomatoes, squash and other vegetables in a garden plot right here in Bernal Heights. The "Senior Garden Club" will meet twice a week to tend to our plants, nurturing and feeding them cooperatively. During harvest time, we'll enjoy the fruits of our labor with beautiful produce! You don't have to have a green thumb (but if you do, we'd love to have you teach us your skills!) to join. Call Vicki at the Bernal Heights Senior Program, 648-0330.

## Senior Activities for April & May

### Easter Celebrations!

Monday, April 16th

- 8:30 am Easter Breakfast Delicious pancakes, sausages, & scrambled eggs, only \$3.00.
- 11:00 am Easter Parade/Party. Put on your Easter Bonnet or Hat and join our Easter Parade. Easter songs, treats, contests and a visit from the Easter Bunny!
- 12:45 Magic Show! Magician Bob Kuhn will amaze you with his many talents and tricks.

### Birthday Party & Dance

Monday, April 30th

- 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. A wonderful time to celebrate! Live music to enjoy and dance to by "Johnny Vallelunga & His Band." Spaghetti & Meatball lunch.

### Cinco De Mayo Celebration

Friday, May 2nd

- 11:00 am. Delicious mexican foods, piñata, song and dance at this annual celebration.

### Mother's Day Party

Monday, May 14th

- 11:00 am Celebrating the joys of motherhood.

The Easter Bunny was sighted on March 18th at the Bernal Heights Senior Program's "Spring Boutique" at the Arts & Crafts Booth with Carmen Morales. The event also featured a "Pancake Breakfast" sponsored in part by our neighborhood Safeway Store.



## A Call to America

by Rev. Carolyn Dyson

This call to America has been birthed as an answer to what one American has heard as a cry from our people, the People in the communities where we all live, the people of this great nation, the people of the United States of America.

It is the belief of this American that here must now emerge people courageous enough to come together and focus on the direct needs of our country. Their primary objectives must be those of establishing lifelines that feed hope by feeding hungry people, tendering directly to the drug addicted and their families, rescuing homeless people from doorways and alleys bringing them to shelters and bedrooms, educating our illiterate, re-establishing the importance of the family unit and refusing to be second partners in the economic growth and development of a country that by its very existence bares the claim, ownership and responsibility of every American.

In this hour, our babies are being poisoned in the womb. Mothers are crying in the night. Many of our fathers have become casualties of the drug war. Grandparents can find no relief from the

burdens that a generation of indifference has put upon their shoulders. Men and women who fought for this country now fight in their own land to be fed. Unconditional help for AIDS patients continues to be a question in the hearts of many Americans.

One American makes the statement that the destiny of America is an urgent issue, and that the Black man, the Red man, the White man, the Brown man, and the Yellow man must now sit at a table called reconciliation, and begin a dialogue to rebuild.

It is this one voice with a determined echo of love, peace, and understanding that now calls this meeting to order, requesting the presence of the people of America—all races, all denominations, all political persuasions, and all professions—to join in the work of rebuilding our families, our schools, our communities, and the hope of this wonderful country. The United States of America

*The Community Lifeline Ministries, where Rev. Carolyn Dyson is the Executive Director, moves ahead with the Center for Loved Ones Missing in Drug Warfare and the Bernal Heights Graffiti Patrol. You may help this new agency by purchasing the "Call to America" poster, which will be*

*on display at various stores in Bernal Heights. Our call to America must start in our hearts and homes here in Bernal Heights. Because Bernal Heights is different, we will make a difference in our city. Please stop in for your poster and place it in your home or shop window. We are located at 511 Cortland Avenue, and our phone number is 647-7122.*



Senior Program Assistant and neighborhood legend Mary Foy warns the photographer to back off, OR ELSE!!



"YOUR GOOD MAN  
IN REAL ESTATE"

**ROB HYMAN**

CALL NOW!

(415) 334-1880

REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE  
2633 OCEAN AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94132

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Classified Rates:** \$3.00 for three lines, and 50 cents for each additional line. To place a classified ad, call 648-0330.

**Goddess Faire:** Your source for crystals, custom jewelry, and semi-precious stones. Now available for crystal parties and classes on use of healing stones and earth energies. Call Goddess Faire at 695-1564. Thank you.

**Window Repairs:** Broken glass, ropes, and putty replaced. Weatherstrip doors, small carpentry and painting jobs. I am always on time. City Window Service. 337-9327.

**The Traveling Mechanic:** Tune-ups, brakes, general repairs, foreign and domestic. 15 years experience. All work guaranteed. House calls. \$30 per hour. Georgio. 864-5747.

**Overwhelmed by clutter, bills, taxes? Professional Organizer** comes to your rescue. I can clear your desk, develop a personalized filing system, balance your checkbook, pay your bills, file medical claims, resolve credit problems. I specialize in organizing receipts, bills, all tax deductibles, for optimal tax preparation. **Free** at-home consultation. Call Debbie at 621-3425.

**Ski lovers' Tahoe Getway:** Beautiful Tahoe home in prestigious Incline Village, North Shore. Near Squaw Valley, Alpine, Heavenly, and South Shore casinos. Large kitchen, three bedrooms, two baths, steam/sauna room, living room with fireplace, two decks, garage, all appliances and laundry. Call for special ski rates. 282-7955.

**Income Tax Preparation:** Easy-to-talk-to CPA will take care of all your financial needs. Tax and financial planning, accounting services, investments, incorporations, partnership agreements. We specialize in small businesses and individuals. **Free** house calls. Very reasonable rates, half-hour **free** consultation. 10% discount when you mention this ad! Call 282-7955.

**Moderne Graphics/Desktop Publishing:** Newsletters, brochures, business cards, menus, T-shirts, letterhead, newspapers, logos. Let us communicate for your business! Very reasonable rates. **Free** consultation. 282-7955.

**Charming Cottage for Rent:** near 24th Street BART station, studio style with new kitchen appliances, garden, private entrance. \$650 per month. Call for details. 282-7955.

**Proofreader Needed:** For Bernal Heights indexing business. Work at home. 5-10 hours per month (flexible). Call Stephanie 281-9066

## Community Congress

continued from page one

6. Ashley Hawley Rhodes has lived in Bernal for over 25 years and wants to serve on the Board to "build community pride." He has worked with Young Community Developers, Bayview Hunters Point Coordinating Council, and the San Francisco Boy's Club.

7. Jose A. Rodríguez, Jr., a resident for three years who wants to serve on the Board because "I care about our community. I'm married and have three children who are being raised in our neighborhood, so we all have a concern in this neighborhood."

Incumbents Gerald Whitehead (President of the Board), Lisa Steadman, and Georgia Willette also easily won. Rounding out the Board are Diane Ross, Alan Bruce, Reverend Harold Franklin, Bill Sorro, Steve Antonaros,

and Marci Wilson. Former Board Members Lee Egger, Alta Fay Scales, and Theresa Mejia will continue their community service on the Advisory Committee, and

Pattie Bartlett and Cristina Majewsky are moving on to other commitments.

**Thank you for all your hard work in making Bernal Heights the best neighborhood in the world!**

The morning Congress session was devoted mainly to updates on the Foundation's work



Charles Bolton ably facilitated the afternoon panel of city officials. L to R: Joel Robinson, SF Park and Rec; David Gilmore, SF Housing Authority; Captain Diarmuid Philpott, Ingleside Station; Commander Brush, SFPD; Barbara Smith, Mayor's Housing Office, John Roumbanis, Department of Public Works.

this past year as well as reports from many of the diverse groups that make our neighborhood so vital and relevant to today's issues. Reports from Northwest

**Empleo:** A member-owned jobs cooperative of skilled and reliable Central American workers. Painting, gardening, housecleaning, construction, moving, janitorial, and other labor. Call 824-3773.

**The Robert Louie Family Cancer Support Program** is for children with cancer and their families. The next meetings are scheduled for April 11, April 25, May 9, and May 23. All meetings are held at the UCSF/Laurel Heights facility at 3333 California Street. A light dinner is provided. For more information, call Better Health Programs at 775-5921.

**Ogden Terrace Community Garden** has plots available. Beautify your neighborhood growing your own vegetables, flowers, and herbs. Free seeds, tools, and technical information. All ages welcome. If interested, come to the garden at the intersection of Ogden and Prentiss Streets on April 8 at 11 am to meet with fellow gardeners, or call 282-4879.

**Attention Gardeners:** The Bernal Heights Open Space Committee is developing four gardens along the stepwalks at Fair Avenue, Esmeralda, Tompkins, and Peralta. Come work with us to make your neighborhood bloom. SF Beautiful is willing to match money with us to provide irrigation and plants. For more information call Lisa Steadman at 550-0529.

**Senior Theater Education Project** presents: Smart Hearts, a musical variety show on heart health and heart medicines. Tuesday, April 17, 1-3 pm, First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin at Geary. Admission free!

Bernal Block Club, Twenty-ninth Street Clinic, Gray Panthers, South Bernal Neighbors, Open Space Committee, were some of those represented. For a copy of

the BHCF annual report and complete list of Bernal Heights groups, call our office at 648-0330, and we'll be glad to send you both.

## Bernal Bulletin Board

**Youth Programs are Back!!!** Come celebrate the return of Youth Programs to the Bernal Heights Community Foundation with a Youth Reception and Buffet on Friday, April 20 from 6 to 10 pm, at the Bernal Heights Neighborhood Center, 515 Cortland Avenue. Entertainment, Video, and more! Admission is only \$5 for Adults. All Youth 17 and under can attend free. You or your business or organization can sponsor a young person for a \$25 donation. This event has been organized by the BHCF Youth Committee. For more information, call 648-0330.

**Square Dancing!** Polkas and line dances too. Live Music. All dances taught by a caller. Bernal Heights Recreation Center, Moutrie and Jarboe Streets, 10 am-12 noon, every other Saturday. Next dance party on April 14. Free. For more information call 282-2125 or 647-6878.

**Flea Market/Bake Sale:** Buena Vista School, 1670 Noe Street, April 28, 10 am-4 pm. Craftspeople may buy space up to two weeks prior to sale. Some new items. Sponsored by Upper Noe Valley Neighbors. All proceeds to Buena Vista PTA to support school projects. For more information call the school at 695-5875 or Leigh at 469-0775.

**Mercado de Pulgas/Venta de Reposteria:** Buena Vista School, 1670 Noe Street, April 28, 10 am-4 pm. Artesanos pueden reservar espacio dos semanas de anticipación. Auspiciado por los Vecinos de Noe Valley. Vengan todos a Buena Vista School a dar su soporte a los proyectos para escuelas. Para mayor información llamar a la escuela al teléfono 695-5875 o Leigh al 469-0775.

A Panel of City Representatives responded to major community concerns in the afternoon. As a result of Mary Burns' absence, the status of Coleridge Park is still in limbo - over one year after negotiations began. (As many readers remember, the Park was built because of legitimate community demand, with the understanding that the City would take it over upon completion. Mary Burns has so far refused to negotiate with us.

Highlights of the afternoon session include:

Alemany Public Housing Project is undergoing a \$7 million rehabilitation program with a non-union contractor, and thus far has

**Hire a Reliable High School Student.** Need help in the office or at home? Enterprise for High School Students at 2667 Mission Street at Ocean will find the right student for your job. If you need help in your home, office, restaurant, or store, call Enterprise at 921-6554.

**Legal Action in the 90's:** Organizing Legal Services with Grassroots People with Selma James, internationally known organizer and speaker, at New College School of Law, 50 Fell Street, Wednesday, April 11, 12 noon, wheelchair accessible, sponsored by Legal Action for Women. For more information, call 558-9628.

**"The Ladies and the Mammies: Jane Austin and Jean Rhys"**, a talk by Selma James at Old Wives Tales Bookstore, 1009 Valencia Street, Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 pm. Wheelchair accessible. Call in advance for childcare. Donation. For more information, call the Wages for Housework campaign at 558-9628.

**"Breaking/Making Habits: Alternative Health and Alternative Politics"**, featuring Selma James, at Quan Yin, 1748 Market Street at Valencia, Thursday, April 12, 7:30 pm. Childcare provided, wheelchair accessible, Donation \$4. Call the Wages for Housework Campaign at 558-9628.

**OPTIONS for Women Over Forty** presents Lifelinks, a two part workshop for women seeking meaningful work. Presentes by Jean Kasparbauer, April 9 & 11, 1-5 pm, at OPTIONS, 3543 18th Street. To register call 431-6405.

no apprenticeships for residents.

The Housing Authority in the future is going to do its own construction, hiring through the union halls and requiring apprenticeship programs. The 1990 Housing Authority budget includes apprenticeship slots in Housing Authority maintenance. Those interested should contact Walter Patrick in Personnel: 554-1245. Mr Gilmore also indicated that job/training notices will be mailed directly to tenants, and not through the project managers.

According to Commander Brush and Captain Philpott, there is insufficient police staffing now, but 40 new officers are coming out of the Academy every four months. They would like to expand the Community Patrol Officer program from Mission to Ingleside.

There will be a follow-up meeting with the panelists on Saturday, April 28, from 10 am to 12 noon at the Neighborhood Center. Representatives from the Board of Supervisors have also been invited. All interested Bernal residents are urged to attend.

continúa de pagina uno

## Diá Casual de los Trabajadores

Gonzáles fue amonestado. El pensó que estaba siendo presionado solamente por tener un nombre de origen Hispano y que otros oficiales de la ciudad también deberían ser llamados. La posición del Departamento de Policía fue ese, ya que muchas de estas personas eran refugiados de guerra en sus países nativos y San Francisco fue declarado como Ciudad Consagrada, y ellos no iban a intervenir mientras no se cometiera una crimen. Gonzáles aseguró que el problema era el resultado directo de las políticas de nuestro país en América del Sur y Centro América. A pesar que tanto Gonzáles como Philpott acordaron trabajar en busca de una solución, la reunión terminó con un sabor de frustración por todas las partes.

Los malos sentimientos se empeoraron durante 1989. Kelly-Moore cerró su tienda para remodelarla y se trasladaron temporalmente al antiguo lugar de KC Dodge. Los buscadores de trabajo se trasladaron junto con ellos. Un nuevo Taco Bell para comida rápida se inauguró en Valencia/Mission, atrayendo aquellos trabajadores en busca de una comida barata o un chance para conseguir trabajo. Concha Amador, quien se trasladó a Bernal Heights, procedente de Guatemala hace 31 años, trabaja actualmente en Taco Bell y se quejó seriamente del lenguaje tosco y abusivo de los trabajadores. "Yo siento pena por ellos," nos dijo. "Algunas veces les damos comida a cambio de que limpien el patio, siendo ellos mismos los que ensucian. Las personas mayores que les gusta visitar Taco Bell se sienten incómodos porque siempre les están pidiendo dinero."

### Luchando Por Sobrevivir en Días Difíciles

Mientras tanto, un número de organizaciones de la comunidad y otras agencias, incluyendo el Mission Hiring Hall, La Raza Centro Legal, y la Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services están en contacto con los trabajadores y comprenden su punto de vista. La gran mayoría de los trabajadores estuvieron sinceramente tratando de sobrevivir durante tiempos duros. Muchos tenían familias que mantener y vivían en condiciones infra-humanas. Ellos mencionaron los abusos en manos inescrupulosas de los contratistas, quienes algunas veces no les pagaban ni siquiera los sueldos mínimos que les habían prometido. El trabajo en sí era a menudo peligroso, sin ninguna compensación o seguro social que los protegiera en caso de daños en el trabajo. Ellos también informaron que la hostilidad hacia ellos en el vecindario hacía todavía mas intolerable su situación ya desesperante.

En Febrero, los trabajadores y sus aliados asistieron a una reunion del North West Bernal Block Club en el Cafe Commons para iniciar comunicaciones formales con el vecindario. Años de tensión han sobrevenido dentro

de una espantosa armonía de gritos. Después de todo, mucha gente se mostró decepcionada por algunas de las cosas más hirientes que se habían dicho; las acusaciones, el llamado sobre nombre de racismo. Algunos lo describieron como la peor experiencia que hayan tenido en una reunión de la comunidad.

Nunca hubo progreso. Los grupos de la comunidad se reunieron con E.D.D. para enlistar su ayuda hacia los trabajadores y la respuesta inicial de E.D.D. fué positiva. Rich Sorro y Mauricio Aviles del Mission Hiring Hall apoyaron a los trabajadores en sus esfuerzos por organizarse ellos mismos permitiéndoles usar la oficina y facilidades y los trabajadores comenzaron a producir sus propias cartas informativas. Mauricio Vela de Bernal Heights Community Foundation inició la comunicación entre el vecindario. Lina Avidan de CIRRS se contactó con Anne Kamsvaag, Attorney-Coordinator para la Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights de Los Angeles (CHIRLA), para dar a conocer como debe conducirse la ciudad con un problema similar.

El 2 de Marzo, el Supervisor Gonzáles invitó a su oficina a un grupo del coro de los representantes de la comunidad para escuchar la presentación detallada de Kamsvaag sobre el Programa para el Día de los Trabajadores de Los Angeles. El primer lugar del programa estaba ubicado en Harbor Regional Park en Harbor City. En ese punto, la ciudad colocó un pequeño remolque que tenía una mesa, un teléfono y una persona bilingüe. Entre las cosas menores estaban incluidos urinarios portátiles, agua potable, café y donas. Ellos establecieron un proceso de registro y sistemas de lotería que facilitaba a los trabajadores apuntarse en los trabajos de acuerdo a sus conocimientos haciendo posible a los contratistas contratar trabajadores en una forma ordenada. A los trabajadores se les dio pequeños panfletos que suministraban espacio para que ellos guardaran registro de sus empleadores, salarios, horas, y experiencias. La operación total requiere un fondo de \$90,000 para un año y ha sido muy exitosa al disminuir las tensiones entre los trabajadores y el vecindario.

Existen en la actualidad cuatro lugares en el área de Los Angeles. Aquellos que inicialmente se opusieron al plan han salido ganando. El factor mas importante que contribuyó al éxito de este programa fué el haberlo desarrollado durante cuatro meses por los mismos trabajadores. Ellos demostraron su compromiso hacia el, al dedicar su tiempo libre para reunirse con los trabajadores y contratistas que continuaban usando los antiguos lugares ilegales, aprovechando las clases gratuitas Ingles disponibles en Harbor Regional Park.

Después de la presentación de Kamsvaag, el consenso general del grupo fué unánime; San Francisco se beneficiaría con la creación de un plan similar. El punto clave era su ubicación. Lina Avidan de CIRRS advirtió que un lugar fuera del vecindario o den-

tro de un edificio para oficinas no sería recomendable. Los trabajadores en cuanto a su estado legal actual, sienten un completo temor al INS. El Capitan Philpott y el Supervisor Gonzáles reiteraron ambos su compromiso al lugar apropiado en el vecindario.

Al día siguiente, Marzo 2, Gonzáles suministró (en Inglés y Español) una gran reunión en St. Luke's Hospital donde Anne Kamsvaag explicó de nuevo el programa L.A. a un grupo que incluía representantes del E.D.D., the Building y Trade Unions, the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, the South of Army Merchants Association, La Raza Centro Legal, Taco Bell, the Womens' Clinic, vecinos interesados y organizaciones de la comunidad, al igual que los mismos trabajadores. Mientras se llegaba a un acuerdo sobre los beneficios del plan L.A., sobresalieron otros temas importantes. Los trabajadores contaron historias horribles de explotación y daños. Stan Smith del Building and Trade Unions Council sostuvo que el programa contenía muy poca protección para los trabajadores contra los contratistas que se aprovechaban sacando ventaja de una obra barata. Los residentes del vecindario se quejaron de los hombres que merodeaban alrededor de una esquina muy concurrida. Una pareja de participantes estuvo discutiendo sobre quien había hecho que o cual cosa y cuando.

Pero el mayor de los problemas que surgió fue el de donde poner el trailer. En L.A., el lugar fué un terreno propiedad de la ciudad, en un parque a solo dos cuadras del lugar original. Muchos de los asistentes del Distrito de la Mission en San Francisco sugirieron como el lugar ideal para el Programa del Día del Trabajo, el parqueo detras del edificio E.D.D. Pero E.D.D. informó que era imposible ofrecer asistencia alguna debido a que las leyes de inmigración les prohíbe ofrecer servicios a residentes ilegales. Esto significaba que la ciudad tendría que buscar un lugar privado y todavía no se han hecho las indagaciones preliminares. Al final de la reunión, el Supervisor Gonzáles ofreció introducir una ordenanza que estableciera un Programa para el Día del Trabajo en San Francisco, para ser financiado a un nivel entre cincuenta y noventa mil dólares.

### La Hora del Cambio

El 13 de Marzo, Mauricio Aviles del Mission Hiring Hall regresó al North West Bernal Block Club para reportar sobre los esfuerzos en busca de solucionar el problema. El estaba bien nervioso, recordando la hostilidad en la última reunión. Para su grata sorpresa, la atmósfera fue positiva. Los vecinos reportaron una notable mejoría en su contacto día-a-día con los trabajadores en la calle y aplaudieron sus esfuerzos por organizarse para mejores condiciones. El Block Club votó a favor de la idea de la Ordenanza para el Día del Trabajo en San Francisco.

Tres días después, Marzo 16, cerca de 15 representantes de los trabajadores se reunieron en St.

Luke's Hospital para saber acerca del Programa del Día del Trabajo en L.A. Hablando solamente Español, el Supervisor Gonzáles describió el plan y pidió sus opiniones a los trabajadores. Después de un acalorado debate, los trabajadores fijaron nueve áreas para discutir, incluyendo un sistema para difundir información, una estructura operacional, y protecciones por sus derechos. El número uno es su lista fue ubicación.

El Comité organizador para el Día de los Trabajadores hizo su presentación al público y al Mission Hiring Hall el 21 de Marzo. Debido a que se le dió poca publicidad, asistieron pocos a la reunión, pero el Comité visualizó esto como la primera de muchas reuniones. Su primer gesto fue disculparse ante el vecindario por cualquier comportamiento ofensivo y prometió trabajar estrechamente con los grupos de la comunidad en un esfuerzo por mantener una relación positiva. Ellos dieron las gracias a la comunidad y organizaciones de servicios, oficiales de ciudad, empresas y vecinos que apoyaron sus esfuerzos para organizarse. Asimismo, ofrecieron ayudar a desarrollar un Programa por el Día del Trabajo basado en el modelo de Los Angeles pero apropiado para San Francisco.

Ellos fueron interrogados muy de cerca. ¿Estarán dispuestos los hombres a participar en un programa como ese? ¿Qué tanto soportarán el flujo de buscadores de trabajo de otras partes de la ciudad? ¿Cuándo comenzar el Proyecto? ¿Participarán los trabajadores en el diseño actual de la nueva ley? ¿Qué poder tendrá el Comité para ayudar a otros?

El Comité espera tomar medidas de precaución dentro de la legislación, incluyendo la opción para agregar lugares adicionales según sea necesario. Ellos consideran que los trabajadores apoyarán el plan debido a que los beneficiará grandemente. Un individuo que no participe no tendrá protección por sus derechos o sus salarios. A pesar de que todos desearían que el proyecto empezara inmediatamente, el Comité está bien sabido que el proceso legislativo puede ser difícil. Permaneciendo en contacto regular con la comunidad, ellos sabrán donde enviar un trabajador con un problema específico.

A los miembros del Comité se les pidió identificarse por sus nombres. Al comienzo parecieron dudar dando la impresión que había cierta privacidad o credibilidad. Finalmente, ellos aceptaron que la verdadera razón que tenían era porque tres de ellos se llamaba José. Esto produjo el primer estallido de risas espontáneo que se escuchaba en esas reuniones.

Al preparar este reporte, NBJ habló con muchos residentes del vecindario, contratistas, oficiales de la ciudad, hombres de negocios, representantes de agencias y los mismos trabajadores. Todos hablaron de manera imparcial y expresaron su simpatía por la adversidad en estos días laborales. Ninguno, ni siquiera aquellos con diferente opinión, se opuso para

ayudar a resolver el problema. Las controversias reales son en la actualidad mayores:

¿Porqué nuestra oficina de E.D.D. no ofrece servicios de referencia para trabajos de cualquier clase? Todo lo que se hace aquí es el procesamiento de quejas por seguro de desempleos. Cesar Ascarrunz, propietario del Cesar's Latin Palace y activista de la comunidad por mucho tiempo, opina que nosotros deberíamos demandar que E.D.D. cambie su política y ayude a los trabajadores. Se ha comprobado que un Programa Casual para el Día del Trabajo existió en el E.D.D. de la Mission hace pocos años. ¿Porqué se suspendió? ¿Cómo puede reiniciarse?

¿Porqué la gente pobre trabajadora está constantemente colocada en la posición de tener que competir por los recursos menos importantes? Esto conduce a resentimientos profundos que son difíciles de ocultar. Los guías Latinos se han quejado que un porcentaje injusto de fondos disponibles está siendo canalizado dentro de la comunidad Africo-Americana. Ellos señalan el servicio completo en la Oficina E.D.D. en Turk Street y lo comparan con otro en el Army y Mission. Por otra parte, nuestros vecinos en Hunter's Point y Visitation Valley pueden describir una larga historia de ignorados en la parte Sur de la ciudad.

¿Puede hacerse algo de veras sobre el costo de vida en esta ciudad? A pesar que la gente dice que son infelices por la elevada espiral en los costos de vivienda, ningun propietario estaría dispuesto a aceptar que su propiedad disminuya su valor. ¿Donde vivirán los trabajadores menos pagados? ¿Donde vivirán nuestros niños?

¿Que hacemos nosotros por la gente que entra ilegal a este país? ¿Qué tal si ellos están huyendo de una guerra en su propio país? ¿Qué tal si nuestro país es responsable de esa guerra? ¿Que sucederá a la gente que entró ilegalmente a este país hace diez o veinte años, y han establecido sus vidas, sus hogares, y sus familias? ¿Como se verán ellos afectados por cualquier nueva ley relacionada con la política de inmigrantes ilegales?

Los lectores del NBJ probablemente tendrán unas cuantas preguntas y sugerencias que hacer. Les invitamos a contactarse con los trabajadores del Mission Hiring Hall (626-1919), con la Oficina del Supervisor Jim Gonzáles (554-5338), E.D.D. (577-1011), o cualquier otra agencia de su agrado. Por supuesto, desde ya le damos la bienvenida a sus cartas y con mucho gusto imprimiremos las que sean necesarias y que podamos incluir en futuras ediciones.

**Feliz  
Semana  
Santa!**

## Casual Laborers

Central America. Although both Gonzales and Philpott agreed to work toward a solution, the meeting ended with a keen sense of frustration on all sides.

The bad feelings got worse during 1989. Kelly-Moore closed its store to remodel and moved temporarily to the old KC Dodge site. The job-seekers moved with them. A new Taco Bell fast-food outlet opened at Valencia/Mission, attracting those workers in search of an inexpensive meal or a chance to pick up some work. Concha Amador, who moved to Bernal Heights from Guatemala 31 years ago and currently works at Taco Bell, complained bitterly about the workers' rude and abusive language. "I do feel sorry for them, but they say things that a woman should not have to hear," she told us. "Sometimes we give them food in exchange for cleaning the patio, but they are the ones who make it dirty in the first place. The old people who like to sit in Taco Bell are frightened because they are always being asked for money."

### Survival During Hard Times

Meanwhile, a number of community organizations and agencies, including the Mission Hiring Hall, La Raza Centro Legal, and the Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights and Services (CIRRS) made contacts among the laborers and learned their side of things. The vast majority of the workers were sincerely trying to survive during hard times. Many had families to support, and lived in substandard conditions. They told of abuses at the hands of unscrupulous contractors, who sometimes would not pay even the meager wages that had been promised. The work itself was often dangerous, with no workman's compensation or health insurance to protect them in the event of on-the-job injury. They also realized that the hostility toward them in the neighborhood was making their desperate situation even worse.

In February, the workers and their allies came to a meeting of the North West Bernal Block Club at the Cafe Commons to open formal communications with the neighborhood. Years of tension boiled over into an ugly shouting match. Afterward, many people expressed feelings of discouragement over some of the hurtful things that had been said; the accusations, the name-calling, the undercurrent of racism. Some described it as the worst experience they'd ever had at a community meeting.

Nevertheless, there was progress. Community groups met with E.D.D. to enlist their aid in helping the workers, and E.D.D.'s initial response was positive. Rich Sorro and Mauricio Aviles from the Mission Hiring Hall encouraged the workers in their efforts to organize themselves by allowing them use of their office space and facilities, and the workers began producing their own newsletters. Mauricio Vela of the Bernal Heights Community Foundation opened lines of communication within the neighborhood. Lina Avidan of CIRRS contacted Anne Kamsvaag, Attourney-Coordinator for CHIRLA, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles, to learn how that city had dealt with a similar problem.

On March 2, Supervisor Gonzales invited a core group of community representatives to his office to hear Kamsvaag's detailed presentation on L.A.'s Day Laborer Program. The program's first site was located at Harbor Regional Park in Harbor City. At that spot the city placed a small trailer that housed a table, a telephone, and a bilingual staff person. Amenities included portable toilets, drinking water, and coffee and donuts. They established a registration process and lottery system that enabled the workers to sign up for jobs according to their skills, and made it possible for contractors to hire laborers in an orderly manner. Workers were issued small pamphlets that provided space for them to keep records of employers, wages, hours, and experiences. The whole operation required funding of

\$90,000 for one year, and has been very successful in reducing tensions between workers and the surrounding neighborhoods.

There are now four such sites in the Los Angeles area. Those who were initially opposed to the plan have been almost completely won over. The single most important factor that contributed to the success of this program is that it was developed over the course of four months by the workers themselves. They demonstrated their commitment to it by using their spare time to lobby those laborers and contractors still using the old illegal sites, and by taking advantage of free English classes available at Harbor Regional Park.

After Kamsvaag's presentation the consensus of the group was unanimous; San Francisco would benefit from the creation of a similar plan.

The sticky point was the location. Lina Avidan of CIRRS warned that a site outside of the neighborhood or enclosed in an office building would not be acceptable. The workers, regardless of their actual legal status, believe that they have plenty to fear from the INS. Captain Philpott and Supervisor Gonzales both reiterated their commitment to sanctuary and the protection of the workers' rights. Gonzales offered to ask the Department of Real Estate to locate an appropriate site in the neighborhood.

The next day, March 2, Gonzales facilitated (in Spanish and English) a larger meeting at St. Luke's Hospital, where Ann Kamsvaag again explained the L.A. program to a group that included representatives from E.D.D., the Building and Trade Unions, the Bernal Heights Community Foundation, the South of Army Merchants Association, La Raza Centro Legal, Taco Bell, the Women's Clinic, interested neighbors and community organizations, and the workers themselves. While there was agreement on the L.A. plan's benefits, several important issues were raised. The laborers told horrible stories of exploitation and injury. Stan Smith from the Building and Trade Unions Council felt that the program contained too little protection for the workers against contractors taking advantage of a cheap labor pool. Neighborhood residents complained about the sheer numbers of men hanging around an already busy corner. A couple of participants got into a dispute over who had done what for whom, and when.

But the single biggest problem that emerged was the issue of where to put the trailer. In L.A., the site was on city-owned land, in a park just a couple of blocks away from the original illegal location. Many in attendance felt that, in San Francisco's Mission District, the logical place for a Day Labor Program was the parking lot behind the E.D.D. building. But E.D.D. declared that it was unable to offer any assistance whatsoever because of the immigration laws prohibiting them from offering services to illegal residents. This meant that the city would have to search for a privately-owned location, and preliminary inquiries had not been promising. As the meeting came

to an end, Supervisor Gonzales offered to introduce an ordinance that would establish a San Francisco Day Labor Program, to be funded at level of between fifty and ninety thousand dollars.

### A Turning Point

On March 13, Mauricio Aviles from the Mission Hiring Hall returned to the North West Bernal Block club to report on efforts to solve the problem. He was very nervous, remembering how hostile the last meeting had been. To his pleasant surprise, the atmosphere was positive. Neighbors reported a dramatic improvement in their day-to-day contact with the laborers on the street, and applauded their efforts to organize for better conditions. The Block Club voted to endorse the idea of a San Francisco Day Labor Ordinance.

Three days later, March 16, about 15 representatives from the workers met at St. Luke's Hospital to learn about L.A.'s Day Labor Program. Speaking exclusively in Spanish, Supervisor Gonzales outlined the plan, and asked the workers for their opinions. After heated debate, the workers settled on nine areas for discussion, including a system for disseminating information, an operational structure, and protections for their rights. Number One on their list was the location.

The day laborers' organizing committee introduced themselves to the public at the Mission Hiring Hall on March 21. Because of short notice, the meeting was poorly attended, but the committee saw this as only the first of many such meetings. Their first gesture was to apologize to the neighborhood for any offensive behavior, and to promise to work closely with community groups in an effort to maintain a positive relationship. They expressed thanks to the community and service organizations, city officials, businesses, and neighbors who supported their efforts to organize. And they offered to help develop a Day Labor Program based on the Los Angeles model, but appropriate for San Francisco.

They were questioned closely. Will the men be willing to participate in such a program? How will they deal with the influx of job-seekers from other parts of town? When will the project actually begin? Will the workers participate in the actual drafting of the new law? What power will the committee have to help the others?

The committee hopes to see safeguards built right into the legislation, including the option of adding additional sites as necessary. They believe that the workers will support the plan because it will benefit them greatly to do so. An individual who doesn't participate will have no protection for his rights or his wages. Although everyone would like to see the project begin immediately, the committee is well aware that the legislative process can drag on. In the meantime, they see their role as a conduit for information about available services. By staying in regular contact with the community, they will know where to send a worker with a specific

problem.

The members of the committee were asked to identify themselves by name. At first they seemed hesitant, leaving the impression that there was some issue of privacy or confidentiality involved. Finally, they admitted that the real reason for their reluctance was that three of them were named José. This produced the first spontaneous outburst of heartfelt laughter heard at any of these meetings.

In preparing this report, *NBJ* spoke with many neighborhood residents, contractors, city officials, businessmen, agency representatives, and the workers themselves. All spoke candidly, and expressed genuine sympathy for the plight of these day laborers. No one, not even those with genuine differences of opinion, was unwilling to help deal with the problem. The real controversies are actually much larger:

Why does our neighborhood office of E.D.D. offer no job referral services of any kind? All that is done here is the processing of unemployment insurance claims. Cesar Ascarrunz, owner of Cesar's Latin Palace and a long-time community activist, believes that we should demand that E.D.D. change its policy and help the workers. Research has found that a Casual Day Labor Program did exist at the Mission E.D.D. until just a few years ago. Why was it stopped? How can it be re-started?

Why are poor and working people constantly placed in the position of having to compete for steadily diminishing resources? This leads to deep-seated resentments that are hard to overcome. Latino leaders have complained that an unfair percentage of available funds are being channeled into the African-American community. They point to the full-service Turk Street E.D.D. office and compare it to the one at Army and Mission. On the other hand, our neighbors in Hunter's Point and Visitación Valley can describe a long history of neglect to the Southern portion of the city.

Can anything realistically be done about the expense of living in this city? Although most people say they are unhappy about the upward spiral of housing costs, no one who owns property is willing to see that property diminish in value. Where will low-paid workers live? Where will our children live?

What do we do about people who enter this country illegally? What if they are escaping from a war in their own country? What if our country is responsible for that war? What will happen to people who entered this country illegally ten or twenty years ago, and have established lives, homes and families? How will they be affected by any new law relating to policy on illegal immigrants?

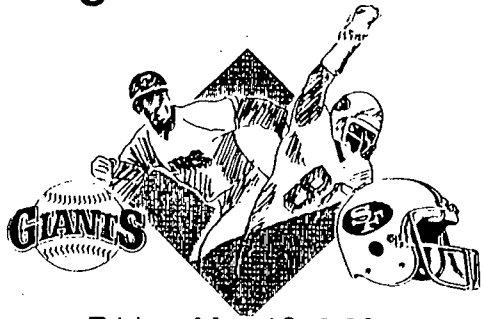
Readers of *NBJ* probably have a few questions and opinions of their own. We invite you to contact the workers through the Mission Hiring Hall (626-1919), Supervisor Jim Gonzales' office (554-5338), E.D.D. (557-1011), or any agency you like to make your voice heard. Of course, we welcome your letters, and will gladly print as many as we can fit in future issues.

St. Kevin's Parish Annual

## Festival of Champions

A celebration of San Francisco's winners!!

**Booths! Prizes! Raffles!  
Bingo! Food! Games!**



Friday, May 18, 6:30 pm  
Saturday, May 19, 6:30 pm  
Sunday, May 20, 6:30 pm

**Fun for All!!**

St. Kevin's Parish Auditorium  
On Ellsworth Street off Cortland Avenue  
648-5751